

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
Christopher Becker
Richard Greener
Matthew Kasisky
Linda Lash
Erin Readinger
Theresa Shurr

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 November *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* is sponsored in honor of Pat and Harry Yocum's 53rd wedding anniversary.

Council Meeting Highlights

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, October 20th:

- The parking lot project was funded anonymously by a Bern church member. No Capital Improvement campaign is needed.
- Approved the purchase of 5 Bibles for Baptisms.
- The Congregational Meeting will be held on November 16th. An update and information on 6261 will also be discussed.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Yes, it's that time of year again. Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sunday, November 2, at 2:00 a.m.** It's time to "fall back." Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday night, November 1st.

All Saints Sunday

On **Sunday, November 2**, we will remember those who have gone before us to the triumphant church in heaven. Members for this year are: William W. Kerns, Ann E. Myers, Jack B. Kochan, Caroline F. Eichner, and Warren J. Lengel, Jr. Family members and friends are: William R. Rowlands (Barry Eiche's cousin), Robert A. Long (Bonnie Eiche's brother), Norman T. Ernst (Bonnie Eiche's brother-in-law), and Chad J. Seidel. We believe they surround us even now as we continue our course on earth. They support and cheer us on. You are invited to bring framed pictures of your loved ones who have gone before us to be displayed around the sanctuary, reminding us of their presence with us. A candle will be lit and a bell will toll as the names of those who have died this year are read.

Epler's UCC Food & Faith Worship Service

You are invited to join the members of Epler's UCC on **Friday, November 7th**, for their Food & Faith fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a worship service at 7:00 p.m. The theme will be "What Jesus will (not) say when you get to heaven." Pastor Gary will be preaching on this theme with the idea that we need to focus on what is happening here and now and not lose sight of how we can serve Jesus today. The special music will be a duet by Mr. Barry Wails and Miss Samantha Wails.

Veterans Day

At our worship service on **Sunday, November 9th**, we will be recognizing and honoring Bern Church's veterans and those currently serving in the military.

Army

Jay Field
Donald Greenwood
E. Berry Hey, Jr.
Robert Hissinger
C. Jacob Stricker

Air Force

Gary Drobnick
David Haas
Judy Haas
Shawn Hissinger
Harry Yocum, Jr.

Navy

Craig Myers
Gerald Pawlyk

Marines

Christopher Becker

Air National Guard

Dennis Egan

Annual Congregational Meeting

We invite you to join us for worship on **Sunday, November 16, at 10:00 a.m.** Our Congregational Meeting will take place immediately following our worship service. At this meeting we will be voting on the Proposed Budget for 2026 and electing new members to council.

Sunday School

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

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Sunday School on **Sunday, November 16**, due to the Congregational Meeting.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the December *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, November 18th**.

Safe Berks Meal

Thank you to the ladies that prepared the meal on Thursday, October 2nd, for the residents of Safe Berks.

SV Food Pantry Donations

213 food items and 3 can openers were delivered to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry during October: 74 mac and cheese, 16 pasta, 17 spaghetti, 17 cereal, 40 peanut butter, 14 cans vegetables, 6 chicken breast, 2 tuna, 18 pasta sauce, 8 cans fruit, and 1 oatmeal. Thank you to the members of Bern Lutheran for your continued support of this mission!



Angel Tree

We will again be participating in the Berks County Children & Youth Services Christmas gift program. We will have names of children to pick from. More details will be available in our December newsletter.

Special Music

This is an invitation to anyone who would like to be a part of making special music for our worship service. We have a vocal choir and your voice would be most welcome! The choir will sing approximately once a month and rehearsals will be held on Sunday morning either before or after our worship. The handbell choir will also be playing on several Sundays during the year with rehearsals also held on a Sunday morning. We really could use a couple ringers!! Will you step up and serve? It's FUN!!! Please let Jane know if you are interested.

November Sign-up Sheets

We are in need of Altar Flower sponsors for November 16 and 30. If you would like to sponsor either of these dates, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway. Thank you!

Hope Rescue Mission/Lighthouse Clothing Drive

Our "Fall" clothing drive continues through **November 23rd**. Your donations will benefit local families and individuals at Hope Rescue Mission/Lighthouse. Sort through your closet and gather gently used clothing. Clothing from all seasons will be accepted. Thank you all for your generosity!



(This is amazing! Thank you!)

Safe Berks Welcome Kit Collection

Our collection of items for the welcome kits for those who arrive at Safe Berks continues until **Sunday, November 23rd**. The kits include:

- ✓ Twin Sheet Set
- ✓ Pillow
- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Shampoo (any size)
- ✓ Conditioner (any size)
- ✓ Soap
- ✓ Toothbrush
- ✓ Toothpaste
- ✓ Deodorant



(Thank you so much for your donations!)

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 27**, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, December 2nd.

Christmas Kick-off Pot-Luck Luncheon

Please plan to join us for a pot-luck luncheon immediately following worship on **Sunday, November 30th**. Hot dogs and hamburger BBQ will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those who would like to contribute a side dish, drinks, or dessert. There is also a sign-up sheet for those planning to attend so that we know how much food to prepare. We are hoping to spend some time together before everyone is caught up in the busyness of the holiday season. There will be food, fellowship, and some holiday craft activities.



You may have noticed a table with a basket on it in the hallway on your way into church. We are collecting cards to send warm wishes to our homebound members for Christmas and to let them know we are thinking about them. All you have to do is sign a card of your choosing, put the member's name(s) on the envelope, place it in the basket, and we will take care of the rest.

Bern's homebound members are:

E. Berry and Margaret Hey
Ruth Keeney
JoAnn Ketz
George and Jane Schaeffer
Darryl Schlappich
Pauline Shuman

Please have your cards to church by **Sunday, November 30th**. Thank you!

Church Key Inventory

As we work to update our records and maintain the security of our church facilities, we are taking inventory of all church keys. If you currently have a church key that you no longer require for your duties or activities, we kindly ask that you return it to the church office at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

WREATHS — across — AMERICA



We will be taking orders for wreaths to remember our military veterans. The laying of the wreaths will take place on Saturday, December 13th. A service will take place before the laying of the wreaths at 1:00 p.m. at Bern UCC. Please come into the church building at 1:00 p.m. for the service and your assignments. If you are interested in helping to lay the wreaths, contact Barry Shurr at 610-372-7229. See the order form included in this newsletter for more details and to place your order. **The deadline for orders is Monday, December 1st.**



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Nathaniel Lash |
| 4 | Jane Schaeffer * |
| 6 | Nathan Braucher |
| 8 | Donald Greenwood |
| 9 | Shyann Parks |
| 12 | Ryan Readinger |
| 13 | Arlene Ensinger * |
| 16 | David Greenwood |
| 16 | Carl Lash |
| 17 | Carol Ann Gould |
| 17 | Darry Schlappich |
| 18 | Ashlin Long |
| 18 | Jeffrey Schucker |
| 21 | Richard Gruber |
| 28 | Lisa Miller |
| 28 | Margaret Reagan * |



- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 5 | Marke and Jamie Wismer (20 years) |
| 11 | Harry and Patricia Yocum (53 years) |

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
9/07/2025	\$3,048.00	29
9/14/2025	\$2,183.15	51
9/21/2025	\$1,165.00	32
9/28/2025	\$1,250.00	38

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$8,899.00	\$ 99,118.00
Congregational Fundraising	.00	4,068.00
Total Funds	<u>\$8,899.00</u>	<u>\$101,346.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$8,429.00	\$85,615.00
Non-Budgeted Income	470.00	15,731.00
Budgeted Expenses	7,200.00	88,894.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	.00	7,674.00
Benevolence to be Paid	710.00	710.00
Surplus/Deficit	989.00	4,068.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2025 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$772.50	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	780.50	1,500.00
Mission Field	883.50	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	405.50	600.00
Other	235.00	.00
Festival of Faith	627.25	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$ 1,105.00
Interest	94.78	866.00
Expense	.00	.00
		<u>\$48,958.30</u>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 1,161.00
Interest	.00	6,762.57
Expenses	.00	.00
		<u>\$283,940.79</u>

***"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is
God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18***

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Greg Knabb, Peggy Reagan, Evelyn Drobnick, Tina Hissinger, Berry Hey, Sally Koch, Margaret Hey, Richard Greener, JoAnn Ketz, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, and Ruth Keeney.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Jessica Keller, Joanna Fryer, Joel Koch, Pastor David Kistler, Cynthia, Bill, Charlotte, Kathy, Dolores Neidig, Lara and Drayton Pappas, Sheila Becker, Joan Ponzurick, Dick and Janet, Jean, Mary, Delores Kistler, Kathy Sutphin, Eddie Kissling, Nick Odagis, Danielle Roberts, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Glenva, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Matt DeLeon, Pastor Joyce Seip, 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.)

thank you

Dear members of Bern Church,

I thank you for the kind gift card remembrance in celebration of Pastor's Appreciation Month. Your consideration is very much appreciated. I am always surprised at your anticipation of importance in the calendar and in my ministry as well.

May God continue to bless all of us with his grace.

In His Name,
Pastor Kenneth Gould

Dear Council and Congregation Members of Bern Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of a Wawa card in recognition of Clergy Appreciation Month. It is a pleasure for me to serve your congregation, and I appreciate very much your kind thoughtfulness.

God's blessings to you all,
Pastor William Fryer

Thank you for your continued support of the West Reading/Wyomissing Rotary clubs plastic recycling challenge. This is a picture of the bench that was installed near the West Reading pool recreation area using the plastic bags that were collected. – *Gail Landis, C.P.M.*



BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH
is partnering with
Hope Rescue Mission & LightHouse!

Clothing Collection
Oct 5th - Nov 23rd, 2025



We'll be collecting all seasons of clothing for men, women and children.
Coats, hats, scarves, gloves, shoes, towels, belts, purses, new mens underwear & long Johns in sizes small to xxxl.



[www. HopeForReading.org/HopeThrift](http://www.HopeForReading.org/HopeThrift)

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.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

November 2 – Rich Myers

November 9 – Jen Miller

November 16 – ***sponsor needed***

November 23 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz

November 30 – ***sponsor needed***

Bulletin Sponsors:

November 2 – Jay Field

November 9 – Jay Field

November 16 – Jay Field

November 23 – Jay Field

November 30 – Jay Field

Newsletter Sponsor:

Pat and Harry Yocum

Church Openers:

November 2 – Richard Gruber

November 9 – Richard Gruber

November 16 – Brenda Reichart

November 23 – Richard Gruber

November 30 – Theresa Shurr

Church Greeters:

November 2 – Barbara Auchenbach

November 9 – Hannah Lash

November 16 – Barbara Auchenbach

November 23 – Barbara Auchenbach

November 30 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

November 2 – Kate Schuler

November 9 – Rich Myers

November 16 – Beth Hartman

November 23 – Richard Gruber

November 30 – Brenda Reichart

Communion Assistants:

November 2 – Tracey Leh

November 9 – Rich Myers

November 16 – Hannah Lash

November 23 – Linda Lash

November 30 – Theresa Shurr

Supply Pastor Schedule:

November 2 – Pastor William Fryer

November 9 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

November 16 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

November 23 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

November 30 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

A Thanksgiving Hymn That Sees God's Hand Everywhere

For a hymn that captures the beauty and gratitude of Thanksgiving, "All Things Bright and Beautiful" is a perfect choice. Its lyrics paint vivid pictures — flowers opening in the morning sun, birds singing, golden sunsets, purple-topped mountains and rivers rushing by. It all leads to this joyful reminder: *"He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell: How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."*

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), an Irishwoman with a passion for teaching children about God. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, later collected in *Verses for Holy Seasons*.

But her ministry went beyond music — she spent her life serving the poor, comforting the sick, and caring for the grieving. When she passed away, "a great throng" gathered to remember her, honoring both her faith and the beauty she shared with the world.



NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>All Saints Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach	3	4 	5	6 Social Hall and Kitchen Reserved	7 Social Hall and Kitchen Reserved 6:00pm-Epler's UCC Food & Faith 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	8
9 <u>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:45am-Outreach Committee Meeting 10:00am-Worship Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Hannah Lash	10	11 	12 6:00-8:30pm – Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved) 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting	13	14 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	15
16 <u>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Congregational Meeting NO Sunday School Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach	17 7:00pm-Council Meeting	18 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall reserved) Newsletter Deadline	19	20 8:30am-12:00pm-Heartland Herb Society (Social Hall reserved)	21 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	22
23 <u>Christ the King Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship -Thankoffering for Safe Berks 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach	24	25 4:00-7:00pm – Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall reserved)	26	27  OFFICE CLOSED	28 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	29
30 <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u> 10:00am-Worship -Holiday Kick-off Luncheon 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Nancy Malandra						



We are planning to adorn our sanctuary with red and white poinsettias for our Christmas Eve service. If you would like to order any plants, please return this form with your payment and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office by **Sunday, December 7th**. The price for each plant is \$6.50. Thank you!

Number of poinsettias at \$6.50 each: red_____ white_____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

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

In honor of:

In memory of:

Given to the Glory of God:

PLEASE NOTE: A minimum of 60 poinsettias are needed in order to decorate the poinsettia tree, with 25 of those being white for the cross in the middle. Thank you!



NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

WHY WE DO IT

We understand we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms. In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We hope you will join us at any of our more than 1,600 participating locations to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. We will never forget.

Please help Bern Cemetery Company remember our military veterans by sponsoring a wreath in either Bern Cemetery or the Bern Historic Graveyard this holiday season.

The cost for the wreath is \$17.00. They are live wreaths from Maine and are 22" in diameter with a red bow. **The Wreaths Across America service will begin at 1:00 p.m. at Bern Reformed UCC, on Saturday, December 13, 2025.** Wreaths will be placed at the graves following the service.

Please make checks payable to "Bern Cemetery Company" and give to Barry Shurr or place in offering plate. Checks may also be mailed to: Barbara Reed, Treasurer, Bern Cemetery Company, 3 Brossman Lane, Wernersville, PA 19565 or Barry Shurr, 118 Berkley Street, Reading, PA 19605. **The deadline is Monday, December 1st.** If you are interested in assisting with the laying of the wreaths that day, please let Barry Shurr know.

Please return this bottom portion with your check by Monday, December 1st. Thank you!

Sponsor (your name): _____

Place on grave(s) of _____ or where needed _____

Number of wreaths _____