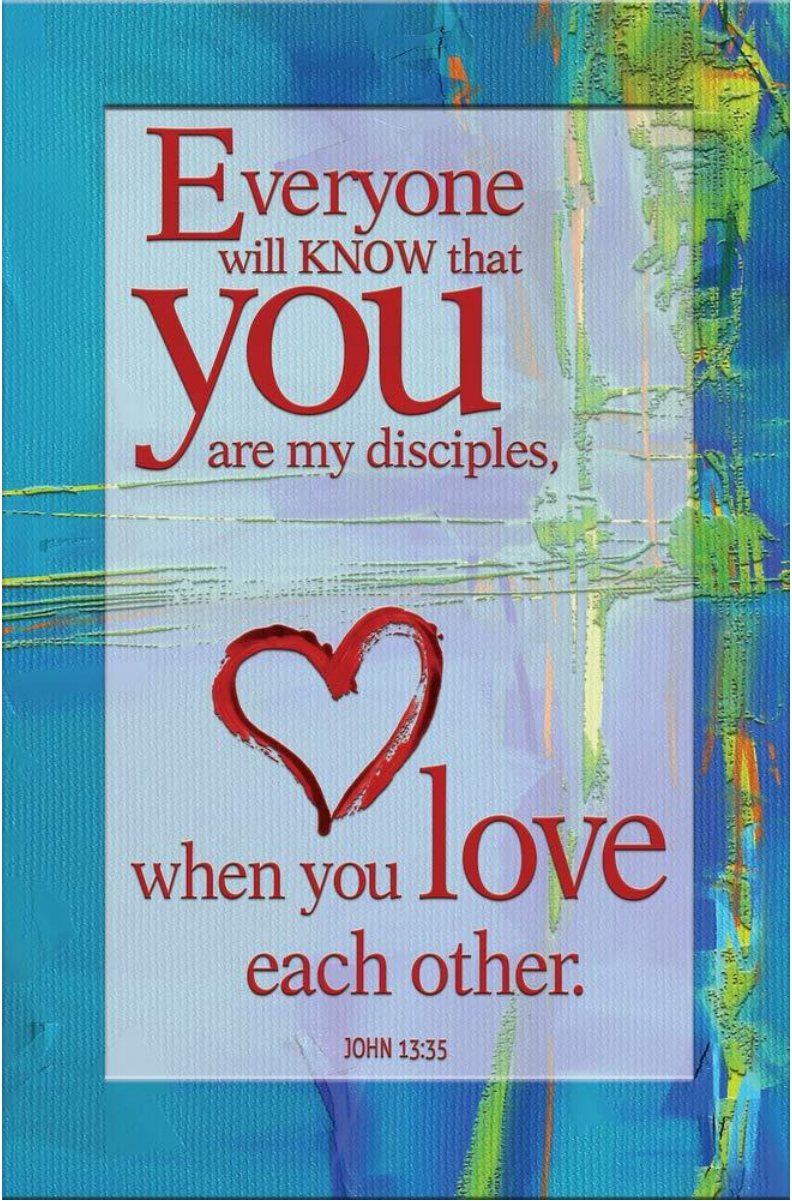


**BERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**820 West Leesport Road, Leesport, PA 19533**



Everyone  
will KNOW that  
**YOU**  
are my disciples,



when you love  
each other.

JOHN 13:35

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**Rogation Sunday**  
**Sunday, May 15, 2022 — 10:00 a.m.**

## INTRODUCTION

*Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

### PRELUDE

“We Are Called”

David Haas

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

( \* ) Please stand as you are able.

LBW (green hymnal)      WOV (blue hymnal)

## GATHERING

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**\* GATHERING HYMN**

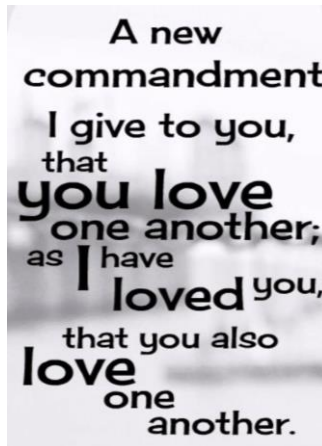
“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

LBW #362

**\* APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

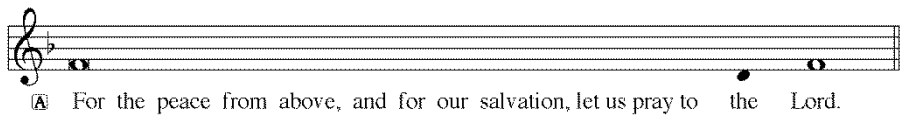


A new  
commandment  
I give to you,  
that  
**you love**  
one another;  
as I have  
loved you,  
that you also  
**love**  
one  
another.

# \* KYRIE



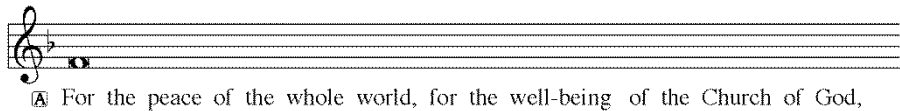
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



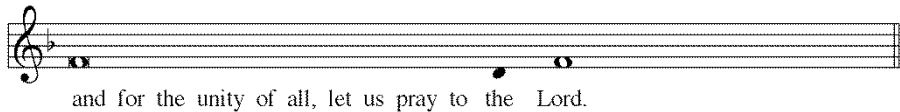
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



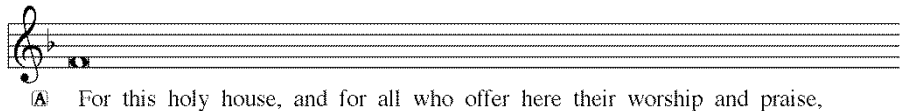
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



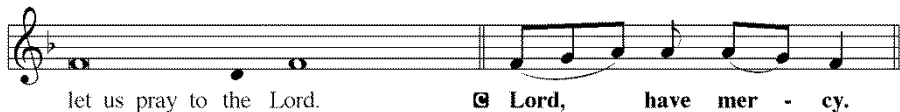
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



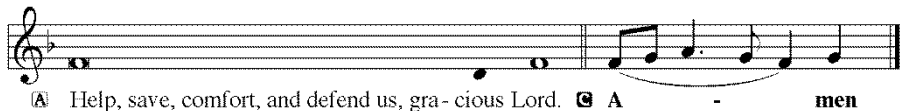
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men



☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.  
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together.

C: **O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18**

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

P: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 148:1-14** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and  
heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise  
for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people  
who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

Behold, I make  
all things **NEW**  
Revelation 21:5



## SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

P: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\* GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.** (*sung*)

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** (*sung*)

**SERMON** – Pastor Kenneth Gould

*Silence for Meditation*



**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“We Are Called”

## \* APOSTLES' CREED

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

P: Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: On this Rogation Sunday, Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it may produce what is needed to sustain our life. Bless those who work in the fields; bless this water, soil and seed, and send us seasonable weather so that the harvest will be bountiful. Grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness. God in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress. We pray especially for Gladys, Tim, George, Myra, Bob, Ruth, and all those we name in our hearts or aloud... As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

\* **SHARING OF THE PEACE** (American Sign Language)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us share a sign of that peace with one another.

**MEAL**

\* **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

\* **THE PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\* **THE SANCTUS**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high - est.

\* **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

LBW, page 70

## \* THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence the words our Savior taught us:

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

## \* THE AGNUS DEI



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### \* POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

### \* POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### \* POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

## SENDING

### \* BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**



\* **SENDING HYMN**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

LBW #370

\* **DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\* **POSTLUDE**

“Blessing and Honor”

Carl Simone

Liturgies and graphics from *Sundays and Seasons* v.20220126.1030. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies under Annual License #SBT005768.

Hymns reprinted with permission. Copyright © 2022 Christian Copyright Licensing International. CCLI License #11442579. All rights reserved.

---

**COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:**

**UPDATED WORSHIP GUIDELINES:** If you choose, face masks are no longer required in our building during worship. We respect the decision of those individuals who wish to continue masking. They are encouraged to take the precautions they feel are necessary to protect their health.

**SANCTUARY SEATING:** For your convenience and comfort the sanctuary now has open seating. The pews on the **RIGHT** side will remain taped for those who wish to continue to remain physically distant during worship.

**CONTACTLESS OFFERING** is being practiced. You may place your offering in the plate near the door of the sanctuary; give on-line; or through the mail. Thank you for giving generously as an act of worship and an expression of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity and faithfulness. Thank you.

**WELCOME to all who have gathered here for worship this morning!** If you are a newcomer to Bern, please sign the guest book in the narthex or fill out the yellow card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We rejoice in the opportunity to worship our Lord together!

**WE WELCOME TO THE LORD’S TABLE** all the baptized. We believe that Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, is present in the bread and wine as God’s gracious gift to us. For those who prefer it, grape juice is available in the pre-filled glasses in the trays at the front of the center aisle. Contactless elements are available from the Greeter when you receive your bulletin or in the tray at the front of the aisle. Please notify an usher if there is a need for the pastor to bring communion to the pew. Children who do not yet commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Office Phone: 610-374-4343

Office Email: [bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com)

Secretary Korinne: 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.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Members:** Gladys Krick, Tim Moyer, George Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, Bob Frey, and Ruth Keeney

**Family and Friends:** Grace Reeser, Charles Trophe, Michael and Troy, Linda Bachman, Bob Stoner, Ashley, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe & Karen Young, Ryder Knechtle and family, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, Lesley Wegman, and Peace Lutheran Church in Reading and Pastor Tim Garman.

*(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.)*

**INCOME TOWARDS EXPENSES:** 5/8/22 = \$1,491.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 5/8/22 = 49

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND SPONSORS:**

ORGANIST: Jane Battaglieri

OPENER: Erin Readinger

LECTOR: Barbara Braucher

GREETER: Nancy Malandra

ALTAR FLOWERS: Given to the Glory of God in honor of  
Michelle Pappa's birthday by Phil and JoAnn Ketz.

BULLETINS: Given to the Glory of God by Carol Eichner in  
honor of grandson, Nathan Eichner, on his birthday.

**CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:**

BIRTHDAYS: 16–Sharon Janiszewski, 17–Tara Lash,  
18–Tabitha Angstadt, 19–Dale Egan,  
20–Ruth Keeney, 21–Jacob Braucher,  
21–Luke Braucher, 21–Kimberly Shank

ANNIVERSARIES: 15–April Riegel and Tammi Shiller (7 years)  
16–Randall and Bonnie Schlappich (35 years)  
20–Andrew and Maggie Pawlyk (6 years)

**WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK:**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Sunday, May 15   | ▪ Worship, 10:00 a.m.<br>Supply Pastor, Kenneth Gould                                   |
|                  | ▪ Sunday School, 11:00-11:30 a.m.   |
| Monday, May 16   | ▪ Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  |
| Tuesday, May 17  | ▪ Berks Quilters Guild, 3:30 p.m.   |
| Thursday, May 19 | ▪ Chicken BBQ and Apple Dumpling<br>Order Deadline                                      |
| Friday, May 20   | ▪ Frog Pond, 6:00-8:00 p.m.<br>▪ Geranium Order Deadline                                |
| Sunday, May 22   | ▪ Worship, 10:00 a.m.<br>Supply Pastor, Joyce Seip<br>▪ Sunday School, 11:00-11:30 a.m. |

**THANK YOU** to Pastor Kenneth Gould for leading us in  
worship this morning and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS** – Your council packet is ready for pick up in your mailbox. Please review it prior to our meeting **Monday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m.**

**GLADYS KRICK** is now residing with her niece, Janet Strunk, at 641 Pointview Avenue, Ephrata, PA 17522.

**INTERIM DESIGNATED PASTOR** – Pastor Gary Rarick of Epler’s UCC in Leesport will be taking a sabbatical from April 25 to June 6. In his absence, Pastor Kenneth Gould will be available for funerals and weddings. If you wish to receive home communion, please contact Korinne in the church office.

**GERANIUM FLOWER ORDERS** – We are planning to decorate our sanctuary with red geraniums for Pentecost Sunday on June 5th. The cost for a 4-1/2” pot is \$3.00 and \$6.00 for a 6” double-bloom pot. Order sheets can be found on the round table in the narthex. **Orders are due by Friday, May 20th.**

**KAUFFMAN BBQ CHICKEN DINNERS AND SYCAMORE FARMS APPLE DUMPLINGS**

If you haven’t ordered your chicken dinners and apple dumplings yet, there’s still time. Contact the church office at 610-374-4343, Phil Ketz at 610-678-5954, or order online on our website at [www.bernchurch.org](http://www.bernchurch.org). **Orders must be received by this Thursday, May 19th.**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - We are planning to join forces with Epler's UCC and hold in-person VBS again this summer from July 24-July 28. This will only be able to 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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, May 29. The last class for this session will be Sunday, June 22. Classes for the fall will resume on Sunday, September 11.

## WE ARE FOUND

As Jesus in today's gospel prepares the disciples for his imminent departure, he tells them that they will look for him but won't be able to join him where he is going. It will not be long before the women are at the tomb in the early morning, only to find it empty.

We also look for Jesus, but perhaps we don't know that we are engaged in the search. We are constantly seeking purpose and answers, turning to self-help books, inspirational videos, exercise programs, and new ways of organizing our stuff. Billboards and magazine covers highlight our flaws while offering the next best solution to make us happy and well.

These opportunities can be compelling, and some of them will prove successful in managing some aspects of life. But these solutions don't turn up what we're really looking for: to be truly loved and known, secure and whole. We find this security only in the love of God. Yet, in this Easter season we are reminded that we do not need to seek Jesus; rather, Jesus seeks out and finds us. We cannot go where Jesus goes, leading the way through death to new life, but Jesus ultimately finds us wherever we are, even when we are most lost. The women found an empty tomb, but Jesus is not gone. The resurrected Jesus finds them!

In finding us, Jesus also directs our searching by giving us a commandment: "Love one another" (John 13:34). In seeking to love one another, we are reminded again and again that the great love of God has already found us.

*As I have loved you,*  
**LOVE**  
*one another*