



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

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
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 July is sponsored in honor of Tim and Beverly Moyer's wedding anniversary by Barbara Speicher.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, June 19th:

- A total of \$18,200.00 has been raised so far for the Sound System.
- The offering envelopes for 2024 have arrived.
- After a discussion about the 25th Anniversary Celebration, it was decided to have a catered luncheon after the worship service.

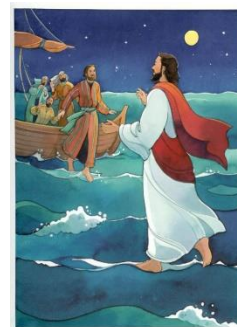
OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, August 21st at 7:00 p.m.** There will be **no meeting in July.**

JULY SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Bulletin sponsors for July 16 and 30. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring these items. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the August *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, July 18th.**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

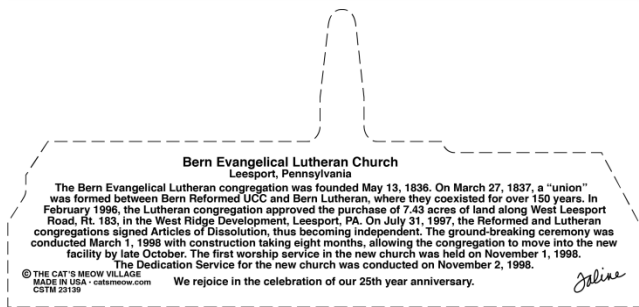
We are excited to announce that Bern Lutheran Church will be joining together with Epler's UCC to host Vacation Bible School this year. VBS will be held from **Sunday, July 23 through Thursday, July 27**

from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bern Lutheran Church. The theme for this year is "Water Miracles with Jesus." VBS is open for preschool children ages 3 up to 6th grade.

Please click on this link [VBS Registration](#) to register online or fill out the enclosed registration form included in this newsletter and return it to Bern Lutheran Church.

25TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

On November 1, 2023 we will be celebrating 25 years as Bern Lutheran Church. An anniversary worship service will take place on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. In celebration of this very special occasion, we are taking orders for a handcrafted wooden keepsake replica of our church building (see the sample below). The cost is \$20.00 each. An order form is included with this newsletter or forms can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway. You can give your order form and payment to Barry Shurr, place it in the offering basket on Sunday morning, place it in the mail slot of the secretary's office, or mail in your order form with payment to Bern Lutheran Church. Please make your check payable to "Bern Lutheran Church" and write *Cat's Meow* on the memo line of your check. Orders are due by Sunday, September 3, 2023.



SECRETARY KORINNE VACATION

Our church secretary, Korinne, will be taking vacation the week of June 26th. She will be back in the office on Wednesday, July 5th. The office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Emails and phone messages will be checked regularly during her vacation.

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

If you are a Redner's shopper and have a loyalty card, please save your cash register receipts. Every time you use your loyalty card when purchasing merchandise, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. Bring your receipts to church and when we turn them into Redner's we will get 1% back from all the grocery register receipts we submit. So keep saving those receipts.

HOSPITAL NOTIFICATIONS

Since we are only notified by Tower Health/Reading Hospital when a member is admitted, we are asking that if you, a member of your family, or a member of our congregation is ever hospitalized at Penn State Health/St. Joseph's Hospital or any other hospital, please let us know by contacting the church office at 610-374-4343.

Also, in the event you would need pastoral care, please contact our Designated Pastor, Gary Rarick, of Epler's UCC at 610-401-1545 or email him at pastorrarick@gmail.com.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your semi-annual contribution statements will be prepared the beginning of July. I should hopefully have them sent out to you by mid-July. When you receive your statements, please look them over and contact me in the office if you have any questions or notice any discrepancies. Thank you! – *Korinne Hotzman*, Parish Secretary



MEMBERS:

Pastor Kenneth Gould, Doris Schlappich, Brooke Noecker, Evelyn Drobnick, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, George Schaeffer, Tim Moyer, Jane Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Brian Keeney, Mary Ann, Ziomara, Patricia, the family, friends, and neighbors of R. M. Palmer, Ginny and Nelson Eyrich, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Terry Hine, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Ann Skinner, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Joanne King, Tim Brown, Robin Brown, Matt DeLeon, Marcia Stoudt, Pastor Joyce Seip, Peter and wife, Bill and Joan Carpenter, Arthur W. Zimmerman, Natalie, Bob Stoner, Ashley Rizzuto, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, and Lesley Wegman

(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 AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
05/28/2023	\$2,606.00	41
06/04/2023	\$5,853.50	43
06/11/2023	\$2,188.00	41
06/18/2023	\$2,490.00	49

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$14,334.00	\$81,061.00
Congregational		
Fund Raising	<u>5,951.50</u>	<u>6,126.00</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$20,285.56</u>	<u>\$87,187.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$9,510.00	\$55,438.00
Non-Budgeted Income	10,776.00	31,750.00
Budgeted Expenses	5,957.00	38,560.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	6,138.00	9,827.00
Benevolence to be Paid	283.00	528.00
Surplus/Deficit	+7,908.00	+38,273.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2023 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$520.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	284.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	412.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	126.00	600.00
Other	1,080.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$590.00
Interest	73.07	154.39
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		\$43,077.47

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 41.00	\$ \$626.00
Interest	383.99	764.43
Expenses	.00	<u>.00</u>
		<u>\$233,811.20</u>



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 4 Jeffrey Beissel
- 4 E. Berry Hey *
- 5 Kevin Reichart
- 6 Harry Yocum
- 7 Catherine Zimmermann
- 7 Mark Zimmermann
- 7 Sara Zimmermann
- 8 Lillian Borkey
- 10 Spencer Mountz
- 14 Kenneth Beissel, Jr.
- 15 Philip Ketz
- 18 Derek Groff
- 25 Andrew Pawlyk
- 26 Barbara Auchenbach
- 28 Jameson Kasisky
- 29 Gwendolyn Borkey
- 29 Donna Pacilio
- 30 William Kerns
- 31 Erin Readinger



- 1 Ryan and Erin Readinger (17 years)
- 5 D. Barry and Theresa Shurr (48 years)
- 11 Jack and June Kochan (64 years)
- 11 Timothy and Beverly Moyer (36 years)
- 19 Michael and Tracey Leh (15 years)

KAUFFMAN'S BBQ CHICKEN DINNER & SYCAMORE FARMS APPLE DUMPLING FUNDRAISER UPDATE

What an amazing fundraiser we had this year! A total of **620** chicken dinners and **470** apple dumplings were sold. Our total profit after expenses was **\$2,905.17**. Thank you to all who bought and sold tickets, to all those who helped at the distribution of the dinners, and all those who helped sell flowers. This would have not been a success without all of your help and support. Thank you!

*Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've
been buried, but you've actually been planted. Bloom!"*

—Christine Caine

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:

July 2 – Barry and Terri Shurr

July 9 – *sponsor needed*

July 16 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz

July 23 – Barbara Auchenbach

July 30 – Tim and Beverly Moyer

Bulletin Sponsors:

July 2 – Patricia Yocum

July 9 – The Kasisky Family

July 16 – *sponsor needed*

July 23 – Caroline Eichner

July 30 – *sponsor needed*

Newsletter Sponsor:

Barbara Speicher

Church Openers:

July 2 – Jane Battaglieri

July 9 – Richard Gruber

July 16 – Theresa Shurr

July 23 – Dianne Leininger

July 30 – Richard Gruber

Church Greeters:

July 2 – Barbara Auchenbach

July 9 – Nancy Malandra

July 16 – Barbara Auchenbach

July 23 – Nancy Malandra

July 30 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

July 2 – Brenda Reichart

July 9 – Jay Field

July 16 – Kate Schuler

July 23 – Beth Hartman

July 30 – Richard Gruber

Supply Pastor Schedule:

July 2 – Pastor William Fryer

July 9 – Pastor William Fryer

July 16 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

July 23 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

July 30 – Pastor David Kistler

STEWARDSHIP OF CIVILITY

There used to be a wise saying about arguments that helped keep things civil. One party or the other would say, "I disagree with what you say, but I defend with my life your right to say it."

That sounds downright quaint in today's climate, where partisans are more likely to say, "I disagree with what you say, and you are evil and have no right to that opinion!"

This month, as we celebrate Independence Day, we can relish the freedoms we take for granted, including freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

At the same time, as Christians we remember Jesus' commands not only to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) but also to do unto others as we would have them do to us (Matthew 7:12). The "neighbors" and "others" certainly include those who hold different ideas on issues of the day.

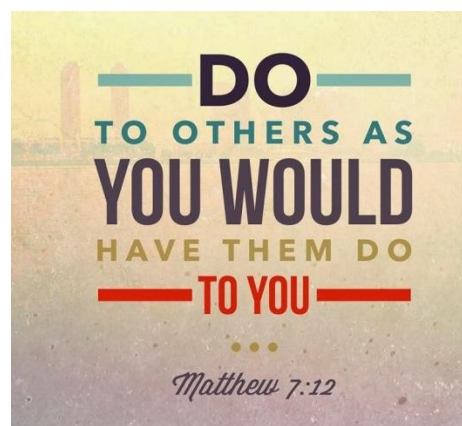
How can we celebrate our freedom of expression in the context of Jesus' commands?

- Listen carefully, being open to another person's ideas.
- Respond thoughtfully and calmly, citing facts to support your argument.
- Do not attack the person, only the ideas.
- If things get too heated, discontinue the discussion.
- Remember the wise old saying, "I disagree with what you say, but I defend with my life your right to say it."

We are stewards of our relationships with our neighbors. As followers of Jesus, we can be stewards of civility and lead our country to calmer, more amicable times.

-Rob Blezard

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SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023 UPDATE

The 36th Annual Synod Assembly was held on June 1-3 at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. If you were not able to attend, be sure to check out the [Synod Assembly Page](#) for YouTube recordings of plenaries, worship and more!

June 2023 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

ASSEMBLY REWIND

WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER
The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod met in assembly from June 1-3, 2023 at Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. We gathered around Word and Sacrament, Song, Service, friendship, and food. We prayed together, worshipped together, and conducted the business of Christ's church for the first time, in person, in three years!

Going beyond death to life

THE SPIRIT BLEW THROUGH OUR ASSEMBLY

In our time together we adopted changes to our constitution from the ELCA, we adopted three new resolutions concerning money management in congregations, chaplaincy at Diakon home, and land acknowledgment concerning first peoples. These can be found on the Synod website.

PRAYER FOR JULY 4th

The following lines are from a long prayer, "That America Fulfill the Promise of Its Founding," by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today. (Full text at <https://tinyurl.com/nhc8747x>.)

O God, who is Liberator and Redeemer, Lawgiver and Judge, ...

May America remain loyal to the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and extend their application to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of oppression, persecution, and unjust discrimination; save us from religious, racial and class conflicts; may our country be a haven of refuge to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together, of reconciling differences of opinion and averting clashes of interest, of helping one another to achieve a harmonious and abundant life ...

That the Star-Spangled Banner, the symbol of our American democracy, may ever wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave. Amen.

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



"He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

—St. Basil

Rise up!

GOING BEYOND 2023

A Place at the Table for You

At our synod assembly, we spent time building relationships and trust with one another, so we could have difficult conversations with one another around racism, and other isms. We spent intentional time in worship and it was evident that the Holy Spirit was working and moving in our midst. We came a people with potential always carrying the Holy Spirit within us and we left invigorated to share God's message of love and grace, ready to adapt to challenges facing our churches, and excited to see what God will do in the Northeastern PA synod and beyond. Our assembly brought us together in ways we didn't expect because God was in the driver's seat. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is a synod on the move, down each of our three lanes, and ready to adapt to the world we find ourselves in!

find out more at: www.godslove.org/assembly23

Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12.
How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.



SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion.
What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	as do far EAST	the THIS up as
WEST THAT is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

SYNOD NEWS



OF NORTHERN STITCHES, CONTAINER SHIPS, PORT CHAPLAINS AND SEAFARERS: A JOURNEY OF HOPE THRU SIH

BY PASTOR SUSAN TJORNEHOJ, SIH BOARD MEMBER AND SUSTAINER, CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BEMIDJI, MN

It is a Thursday morning at Calvary Lutheran Church in Bemidji, MN. Canada is just 107 miles away. The winter morning is brisk, 7 degrees, with a stiff breeze out of the north. This means it feels like way too many degrees below zero. For the 8 to 10 women who are here, cold temps, icy winds, even blowing snow can't keep them home. The call to serve others through the art and craft of quilting is too compelling. Colors surround them, blues and greens, browns and oranges, reds, yellows, floral and stripe, squares and scraps, piecing together discarded fabric into warmth which becomes shawls and tents, blankets, a wedding dress, maybe even a death wrap for those fleeing war or the ravages of climate change. But here in the north, it is simply the joy of community and service.

Today I imagine the journey the quilts will take, from the cold north to a warehouse, into a container bound for a need somewhere in the world. Ukraine or Lebanon? Mali or Burkina Faso? I imagine them loaded onto a train or truck on its way to a port, part of the *Seafarers International House (SIH)* network. Baltimore? Newark? *Seafarers International House (SIH)*, the ELCA seafarers' ministry, has been that intersection where quilters from Bemidji, connect to a port chaplain, a seafarer, a dock worker loading up a container ship bound for somewhere across the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, to places known and unknown.



For 150 years, hospitality and the welcome of strangers, support for seafarers and newcomers and refugees and immigrants, asylum seekers, this ministry has been a tapestry, a quilt, a piecing together of connection, support and a wayside rest. Perhaps some of the ancestors of these quilting women were assisted by SIH as they disembarked at Battery Park or Ellis Island, bound for a new home in a new land.

This is what interests me on a cold Thursday morning, how the stitches of these women, intersect with a dock worker, a seafarer, a port chaplain, an asylum seeker. This is why I continue to financially support this ministry and serve on its board with great joy, imagining and underwriting the hope, the intersections of strangers around the globe, all uniquely made possible through SIH. 🙏



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod met in assembly from June 1-3, 2023 at Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. We gathered around Word and Sacrament, Song, Service, friendship, and food. We prayed together, worshipped together, and conducted the business of Christ's church for the first time, in-person, in three years!

In our time together we adopted changes to our constitution from the ELCA, elected a new Secretary, Rev. Ken Melber Jr, elected a new Vice President, Nancy Reichelt, and we adopted three new resolutions concerning money management in congregations, chaplaincy at Diakon home, and land acknowledgment concerning first peoples'. These can be found on the Synod website at www.godslove.org/assembly23

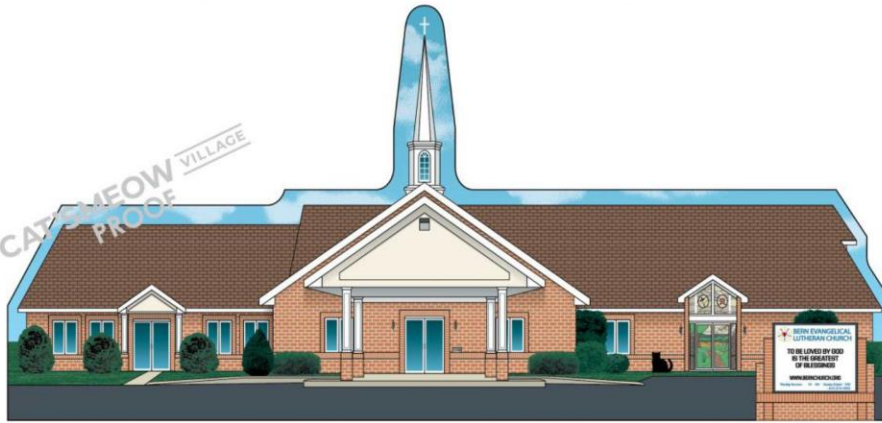




OF BERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In November of this year, we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary as Bern Lutheran Church. In celebration of our anniversary, we are taking orders for a handcrafted wooden keepsake replica of our church building designed by Cat's Meow Village. Give yourself or someone you love a gift to remember this historic year to celebrate our church's 25 years of continuous faith and service. The cost is \$20.00 each.

To place an order, contact Barry Shurr at 610-372-7229, place your order form with payment in the offering basket, in the mail slot of the Secretary's office, or mail in your order form with payment to Bern Lutheran Church at 820 W. Leesport Road, Leesport, PA 19533. Please make your check payable to "Bern Lutheran Church" and write Cat's Meow on the memo line of your check. Orders are due by Sunday, September 3, 2023. Below is a sample of the front and back of the keepsake.



Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
Leesport, Pennsylvania

The Bern Evangelical Lutheran congregation was founded May 13, 1836. On March 27, 1837, a "union" was formed between Bern Reformed UCC and Bern Lutheran, where they coexisted for over 150 years. In February 1996, the Lutheran congregation approved the purchase of 7.43 acres of land along West Leesport Road, Rt. 183, in the West Ridge Development, Leesport, PA. On July 31, 1997, the Reformed and Lutheran congregations signed Articles of Dissolution, thus becoming independent. The ground-breaking ceremony was conducted March 1, 1998 with construction taking eight months, allowing the congregation to move into the new facility by late October. The first worship service in the new church was held on November 1, 1998. The Dedication Service for the new church was conducted on November 2, 1998.

© THE CAT'S MEOW VILLAGE
MADE IN USA - catsmeow.com
CSTM 23139

We rejoice in the celebration of our 25th year anniversary.

Joline

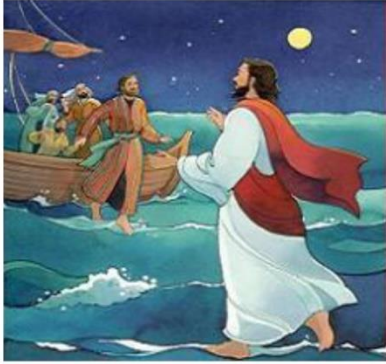


Please fill out this order form with the number of keepsakes you would like to purchase and return this portion to Bern Lutheran Church. Make your check payable to "Bern Lutheran Church" and please write *Cat's Meow* on the memo line of your check. Orders are due by Sunday, September 3, 2023.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Qty. @ \$20.00 each _____ Total: \$ _____



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

at Bern Lutheran Church

(with Epler's UCC)

Sunday, July 23 to Thursday, July 27

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Theme: Water Miracles of Jesus

VBS Registration Form

Name _____

Date of birth _____ Grade completed _____ Age _____
(2-3 year olds must be accompanied by an adult for VBS)

Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Email _____

Will you accompany and stay with your child during VBS? _____yes _____no

Emergency Contact Name and Number _____

Any Special Needs _____

Any Allergies _____

Is there a special friend your child must be with? _____

I give permission to post photographs of me and/or my child(ren) on the church's website, Facebook, and other publications _____yes _____no

Are you a member of Epler's UCC _____ Bern Lutheran _____ Other _____

Class/Crew Assignment _____
(to be completed by church)

Return or mail VBS Registration Form

To: Bern Lutheran Church

820 West Leesport Road

Leesport, PA 19533

You can also register online at www.eplerschurch.org

JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>5th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Jane Battaglieri Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	3	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5	6	7 6:00pm-Food and Faith Worship Service, Epler's UCC 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond	8
9 <u>6th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Jay Field Greeter: Nancy Malandra	10	11	12 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts (Social Hall)	13	14 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond	15
16 <u>7th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	17 NO COUNCIL MEETING THIS MONTH	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19	20	21 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond	22
23 <u>8th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church Opener: Dianne Leininger Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Nancy Malandra	24 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church	25 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Bern UCC Picnic Grove 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church	26 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church	27 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church	28 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond	29
30 <u>9th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Nancy Malandra	31					