



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 this month is given to the Glory of God in honor of Tim and Beverly Moyer's 35th wedding anniversary by Barbara Speicher.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, June 20th:

- Pastor Kenneth Gould will be our Designated Pastor while Pastor Gary Rarick is on vacation from June 27 to July 7. Pastor Gould will be available for funerals and weddings.
- A Thank Offering will be collected for Food for the Poor, a ministry in which Pastor Bruce Potteiger is involved. Pastor Potteiger will be our supply pastor on Sunday, November 6.
- The Outreach Committee donated Kauffman's BBQ chicken dinners to the residents of the Southgate Apartments.

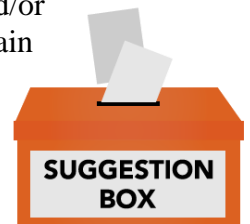
OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **July 18th at 7:00 p.m.**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the August *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, July 19th.**

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.





DESIGNATED PASTOR

Pastor Gary Rarick of Epler's UCC, our Designated Pastor, has returned from his sabbatical. Pastor Rarick is now available for homebound visits and communion, funerals and weddings, and other pastoral care needs.

Feel free to contact him at 610-401-1545 or email him at pastorrrarick@gmail.com. If anyone would want home communion, please contact Korinne in the office and arrangements can be made.

PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Gary Rarick will be on vacation from Monday, June 27 to Thursday, July 7. Pastor Kenneth Gould will be our Substitute Designated Pastor while Pastor Rarick is away. He will be available for weddings and funerals.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A First Communion Class is being formed for Bern's youth, Ethan and Emma Wismer and Andrew Kasisky. 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.



SCHUYLKILL VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Your help is needed! Bern Lutheran Church is scheduled to help at the next Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry distribution on



Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. The pantry is located at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 102 Apple Street, Leesport. Look for a sign-up

sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway if you are able to volunteer your time. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Held at the Bern Pool. Music, food, emergency vehicles, face painting, dunk tank, fireworks, K9s, drones, swimming and more.

Epler's UCC Peach Festival – Saturday, August 20, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Performance by "Sweet Life Music" from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Basket Raffle at 6:00 p.m. Food all day! Held rain or shine.

UPDATE ON NEW PASTOR CALL

This is just an update to keep everyone informed of the progress of the new pastor call process. The **Congregational Vitality Survey** answers have been entered into the synod website and a report was generated from your responses. Another step in the process was to complete a **Ministry Site Profile (MSP)**. An MSP is a description of Bern Lutheran Church and the qualities we are looking for in a pastor; it is designed to serve as the first impression that we wish to give to prospective candidates. This was completed and uploaded to the ELCA website on May 25 and reviewed and approved by the synodical bishop for posting to the ELCA's Mobility Database System (MDS). Bern's Ministry Site Profile can be found at www.ELCA.org/Call-Process/Current-Openings. The information from the submitted MSP is stored in the MDS where prospective candidates can view ministry opportunities on the online bulletin board. And finally, your answers to the **Reflection Questions** have been submitted to the Associate of the Bishop, Pastor Rachael Dietz, who will forward them to the synod office for transcribing and collating for inclusion in the *Parish Study Report (PSR)*. The PSR is generated from the three items in **bold** listed above. As we await the compilation of the PSR, we are now looking for members of Bern to volunteer their time as a member of the Call Committee.



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!

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves. —Amelia Earhart

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. Thank you!

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 July:

July 3 – Barry and Terri Shurr
July 10 – Tim Moyer
July 17 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
July 24 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
July 31 – Tim and Beverly Moyer

Bulletin sponsors for July:

July 3 – Pat Yocum
July 10 – *sponsor needed*
July 17 – *sponsor needed*
July 24 – Caroline Eichner
July 31 – *sponsor needed*

Church Openers for July:

July 3 – Dianne Leininger
July 10 – Pat Yocum
July 17 – Rick Gruber
July 24 – Erin Readinger
July 31 – Dianne Leininger

Church Greeters for July:

July 3 – Barbara Auchenbach
July 10 – Nancy Malandra
July 17 – Barbara Auchenbach
July 24 – Nancy Malandra
July 31 – Barbara Auchenbach

Lectors for July:

July 3 – Rick Gruber
July 10 – Donna Marks
July 17 – Jay Field
July 24 – Barbara Braucher
July 31 – Caroline Eichner

Supply Pastor Schedule:

July 3 – Pastor Joyce Seip
July 10 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
July 17 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
July 24 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
July 31 – Pastor David Kistler

THANK YOU!

To the barbeque crew and Bern Lutheran members: Thank you for the delicious barbeque chicken delivered to this abode last Thursday. It was mouth-watering delicious and good to the last bone. Your generosity and kindness are very much appreciated. Thank you for your ministry and dedication to support the work of the church, not only by word, but by action. God's blessings, *Pauline Shuman*

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

I would like to thank the Bern Lutheran Church congregation for your expressions of sympathy at the time of my Aunt Gladys Krick's death. Your support of prayers, cards, and calls is a comfort and a blessing to me. Many of you I have never met, but feel I know you through my aunt's stories. She loved her church family. You have touched Gladys's heart deeply. The love and concern of friends is God's way of showing us his love. Blessings to all of you! – *Janet Strunk*

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

Dear Barry and Terri, thanks for ALL YOU DO for our Festival of Faith program. Please pass this on to the church council and the congregation our appreciation to Bern Lutheran Church for hosting this program. Very best blessings to you, *Pastor Dave Kistler*

CELL PHONE WORKSHOP – Sunday, July 17

Are you intimidated by your cell phone? Do you suspect there are benefits of this technology that you are not accessing? Do you seek help from your children or grands to help you and still do not know what to do? Not to worry. Bring your mobile/cell phone and questions on July 17th to learn ways to safely navigate this popular and nearly essential technology in a secure and fun way. Pastor Gary Rarick's wife, Brea, has agreed to share her knowledge with us to help us



“Navigate the Cell Phone World.” No registration is required; just bring your phone and questions. We will be meeting at Epler's UCC in the lower level Social Hall after the church service. The workshop will be held from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Beverages will be provided. If you need further assistance, contact 484-709-5604 or email lahammond24@gmail.com.



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.



THE REFORMATION: WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHEN AND HOW – Saturday, July 9, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (online)

Anyone who has gone through confirmation has heard the word, reformation. But do you remember what it was all about and who were the people who had a hand in the events of that time? Turn on your computers, click on Zoom and travel back in time to the event-filled, tumultuous years of the European Reformation and learn how the events of 500 years ago are still playing out today. The workshop presenter is Cheryl Statham, who is a member of the Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team and a life-long lover of all things history. She was a Director of Education and Programming for many years at Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm before retiring right before the COVID shut-down began. To register, click the link below:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

THE SOIL AS SOUL

Gardeners who've dealt with inhospitable conditions can relate especially well to Jesus' parable of the sower. Drought, invasive critters and thorny weeds often seem to conspire against growers' efforts. Yet when seeds fall on "good soil," the crop yield is abundant — up to a hundred times what was sown (Matthew 13:8).

That parable emphasizes the need for hearts to be receptive to God's Word. But it's also a reminder to plant Scripture persistently. Just as soil and weather conditions change, so may someone's attitude toward following Jesus. Pastor J. Ellsworth Kalas writes, "Whenever we serve as witnesses to the faith, we must do so with all earnestness, because one doesn't know the season in which the soul currently abides. That uninterested, distracted or unresponsive person may be nearer the Kingdom than we — or they — realize." Kalas adds, "We dare not give up on anyone at any time — including ourselves."



—Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

FREEDOM

Each one of us is born most free
And we alone can choose
To do what God would have us do,
To use what God would use.

Or we are also free to seek
The proud and selfish way —
A life where other gods come first
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,
We find that freedom's place
Is really in God's will for us,
And we have chosen GRACE!

—Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*



**MEMBERS:**

Michael Leh, Barbara Speicher, Family and friends of Pauline Schenk, Tim Moyer, Jane Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, Bob Frey, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Family and friends of Grace Reeser, Peter and wife, Bill and Joan Carpenter, Arthur W. Zimmerman, Natalie, Linda M., 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

**PAULINE L. SCHENK**

We offer our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Pauline L. (Zimmerman) Schenk.

Pauline "Polly," 83, of

Muhlenberg Township, passed away on Friday, June 10, 2022. She was the wife of Walter P. Schenk, who died September 7, 2008. Pauline was a 1957 graduate of Schuylkill Valley High School. She is survived by a brother, Arthur Zimmerman and four nieces. Services were held on Saturday, June 18, at Leibensperger Funeral Home, Leesport with Pastor Gary Rarick officiating. Her burial was at Bern Cemetery.

"CHEW ON THIS" LUNCH AND DISCUSSION

On **Thursday, July 14, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.** at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, 16 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood, we will tackle the ongoing issue of cyber fraud, scams, and prevention. David Shallcross, Director of Senior Protection Unit, along with Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, will offer a presentation that will help identify the most common types of scams, offer tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud, provide information on how to identify the mechanics of what makes a scam work against you, and dispense tips on where and when to report attempts of fraud and scams. Lunch is free although a freewill offering will be available to help defray the cost of the meal. Please make a reservation by calling 610-682-7664 or emailing to christ@christmertz.org.

Bern Lutheran Church,

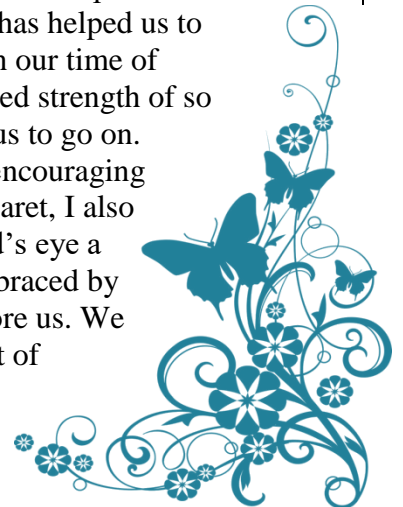
The tragedy I have experienced this year has been so difficult to endure. And yet I feel uplifted by so many, especially in our Christian Community. The outpouring of prayers, cards, meals, monetary contributions, and special gifts have been an encouragement. Thank you.

I was overwhelmed by how many people came to Jason's Celebration of Life. At one point someone asked me if all these people were members of our church. While I answered no, I have since reflected on this and think that the more truthful answer is yes. While they were not all members of the same congregation, many were members of our Christian Community and represented the church families that we are a part of.

As Jason and I grew and built a family, so to did our church "family" grow and evolve. We have always been supported by some very special people, from Westfield Presbyterian (where Jason grew up), Bern Lutheran (where I grew up), First Presbyterian (where Jason attended when he moved east), and St. John's Reformed (where we joined as a married couple). Our children have also been embraced by St. Albans Episcopal, where they attend preschool. We experienced lasting friendships with people from each of these congregations which came to make up what I would call my Church Family.

The encouragement we've experienced from these special friendships has helped us to grow and flourish. And in our time of deepest need, the combined strength of so many connections helps us to go on. While so many are here encouraging myself, Joslyn, and Margaret, I also see so clearly in my mind's eye a vision of Jason being embraced by those that have gone before us. We are so blessed to be a part of God's family. —

Anne Spieker and family



The paradox of faith is that when we conform our lives to Christ, then we gain our true freedom. And its fruit is profound and lasting happiness. — Vincent Nichols



(* Denotes 80 years young)

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



- 1 Ryan and Erin Readinger (16 years)
- 5 D. Barry and Theresa Shurr (47 years)
- 11 Jack and June Kochan (63 years)
- 11 Timothy and Beverly Moyer (35 years)
- 19 Michael and Tracey Leh (14 years)

Hold fast to the Bible as the [main] anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future. — Ulysses S. Grant

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
06/05/22	\$ 2,483.05	41
06/12/22	1,921.05	38
06/19/22	4,002.00	34
06/26/22	1,310.00	36

***\$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	\$12,170.00	67,537.00
Congregational		
Fund Raising	<u>6,730.00</u>	<u>7,901.00</u>
(chicken BBQ)		
Total Funds	<u>\$18,900.00</u>	<u>\$75,438.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$10,695.00	\$56,458.00
Non-Budgeted Income	8,204.00	18,968.00
Budgeted Expenses	9,269.00	50,028.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	4,838.00	8,261.00
(chicken BBQ)		
Benevolence to be Paid	423.00	898.00
Surplus / (Deficit)	+4,369.00	+3,575.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2022 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$858.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	344.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	214.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	198.00	600.00
Other	301.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$130.00	\$ 625.00
Interest	.44	5.18
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$41,587.65</u>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 1,045.00
Interest	16.29
Expenses (piano tuning)	<u>145.00</u>
	\$132,645.46

SANDY SCENES

Make a scene with this fun summer craft you can create outdoors.



What you need:

- Play sand
- Spoons
- Empty jars
- Powdered tempera paint
- Cardstock paper and pencil
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush

What you do:

1. Pour a few tablespoons of sand into empty jars. (You need one jar for every color of paint you make.)
2. Add a small amount of powdered paint to the sand and then mix. Experiment with the amount, using more paint to create deeper colors.
3. Lightly sketch a design on cardstock.
4. Working in one small section at a time, paint an even layer of craft glue on the paper.
5. Use a spoon to sprinkle colored sand atop the glue. Tilt the paper so extra sand falls off. Repeat to complete the entire design.
6. Let dry on a flat surface before displaying upright.



Beyond number
God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.



How 13+10 to me are your 12+6, God!



How 8+11 is the 10+3 of them!



Were I to 15+6 them,

they would 3+12 the grains of 4+18 —



when I 13+4, I am still with you.



PSALM 139:17-18, NIV

Answer: precious, thoughts, vast, sum, count, outnumber, sand, awake



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, July 24 – Thursday, July 28, from 6:00-8:00 PM

All children age 3 through grade 6 are invited to join us for 5 days of adventure at Rocky Railway VBS. We are excited to be able to offer an in-person program again this year with masks optional. During our week on the rails, we will explore how the power of Jesus will help us do hard things; give us hope; help us be bold; and let us live forever. As we travel through the rocky mountains, we will meet a number of animals along the way, so our mission project for this year will be collecting supplies needed by local animal shelters. Donations can be brought in any day during the program. We will be closing our program on Thursday evening with a family picnic as we did in years prior. This will be an opportunity for a time of fellowship, as well as an opportunity for the participants to showcase some of what they learned during the week. Registration forms are available online as well as on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you complete a paper form, please put it in Brenda Reichart's mailbox. Click [here](#) to register online.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED EVEN IF YOU AREN'T ATTENDING?

- Watch the bulletin board for lists of items needed for snacks and crafts and choose an item to donate.
- Join us in collecting items for the animal shelter—lists will be provided in future bulletins as well as posted on the bulletin board.
- Encourage family, friends and neighbors to register and join us for the week. Participants do not need to be members of either congregation.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
At Bern Lutheran Church
with Epler's UCC
July 24th-July 28th
6:00 - 8:00 PM

VBS Registration Form

Name_____

Date of birth_____Grade completed_____Age_____
2-3 year olds must be accompanied by an adult for VBS

Parent/Gaurdian_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Cell Phone_____Home Phone_____Email_____

Will you accompany and stay with your child during VBS ____yes ____no

Emergancy Contact Name and Number_____

Special Needs_____

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_____

(completed by church)

Return or mail VBS Registration Form
To: Epler's Church
1151 West Leesport Road
Leesport, Pa 19533
You can also register online at eplerschurch.org

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Stronger Together

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me." (John 10:14)

"I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." (Mark 2:11)

Jesus speaks: we hear his voice, and we follow. Even when we are made able to hear, by mechanical means. Even when we are blessed to move, using new and inspiring inventions. These are no less miracles than the healing of the one born blind (John 9), or the person on the mat who's unable to walk (Mark 2). Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network is a partner in ministry with us, bringing technology, compassion and faith together – by the work of the Holy Spirit – in ways that put life in motion and love in action, for God's children of all ages – especially youth. They truly make us: **STRONGER TOGETHER.**

+ **Bishop Christopher deForest**



Watching your child take his or her first steps is one of the most exciting moments in a parent's life. But what if your child has a disability and those steps don't come so easily, or at all? Through the years, parents faced with this dilemma have come to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network looking for help and finding it. One of the rehabilitation technology stars in Good Shepherd Pediatrics' toolbox is the Trexo Plus. This innovative, wearable robotic gait trainer helps children with spasticity and mobility challenges walk, perhaps for the first time. Thanks to our generous supporters, including the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Good Shepherd has acquired a total of six Trexo devices in small, medium, and large sizes for children as young as 1 through their teen years. This makes Good Shepherd the only pediatric rehabilitation provider in the U.S. to offer all three sizes for both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings. Children who benefit from using the life-changing technology are diagnosed with cerebral palsy, pediatric stroke, spinal cord injury, gait disorders, or other mobility problems.

The device's brightly colored legs allow children to walk hands-free safely, correctly, and consistently, all under the watchful eye of trained Good Shepherd staff. Trexo is one piece in an array of technology used by Good Shepherd Pediatrics and supported by the Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology Fund.

NEPA Synod can be proud of the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network. Because of you, children will be given the opportunity to exercise their brains and muscles in a new way, gaining confidence along with mobility. Good Shepherd provides therapies and residential options unique in the US. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support! It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission.

For more information, visit GoodShepherdPediatrics.org.

Story Contributor: Kimberly Stolarik, Interim Administrative Director, Development
Helping Children Through Technology



SYNOD ASSEMBLY REWIND

WHAT HAPPENED AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY?!?




The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn, Senior Director, Christian Community and Leadership Mission for the **ELCA** was the churchwide representative to our synod assembly. Rev. Vaughn enlivened the assembly with her words and brought greetings from the wider church. This representation reminds us that we are a church in three expressions: congregations, synods, and churchwide. These expressions work together to gather God's people and mobilize them to love and serve the world through mission and outreach.

This year's assembly was once again held virtually. We're getting "good" at holding virtual assemblies, but we simply cannot wait to gather in person. Next year, we'll be gathering at **Kalahari** in the Poconos, and we'll be wondering about how our synod and congregations are **going beyond death to life**. This is the "third lane" in our synod focus. Remember we've been talking about lane one, "**Growing young**" and lane two, this year's theme, "**Gaining Strength/Stronger Together**" These vital signs help us understand who we are as God's people and how we might best show up in our contexts.

This year some great **resolutions** were brought before the assembly. Some of these resolutions will be considered and acted upon by the **synod council**. The synod council is an important body within the synod. If you'd like to read the resolutions visit godslove.org/assembly in addition to resolutions you can view all the great videos from the assembly where churches and other groups showed their faith in action through ministries that highlighted our theme of being stronger together, growing young videos that look at fun scenarios to help individuals and congregations understand what it means to grow young, greetings from our ministry partners, and EVERY plenary is available for your viewing pleasure.

We had such an engaging time wondering what God was up to in our midst, especially in places where we're working together for the sake of God's Kingdom, here and now!

JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:00-8:00pm - Frog Pond	2
3 5 th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Joyce Seip Opener: Dianne Leininger Greeter: Barb Auchenbach Lector: Rick Gruber	4 	5	6	7	8 6:00-8:00pm - Frog Pond	9
10 6 th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Kenneth Gould Opener: Pat Yocum Greeter: Nancy Malandra Lector: Donna Marks	11 1:00pm – Senior Berners	12	13 6:00pm – Boy Scouts	14 12:00-1:30pm – “Chew On This” Lunch and Discussion at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church	15 6:00-8:00pm - Frog Pond	16 7:30am – Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Distribution
17 7 th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Kenneth Gould 11:00-12:00pm – Cell Phone Workshop, Epler’s UCC Social Hall Opener: Rick Gruber Greeter: Barb Auchenbach Lector: Jay Field	18 7:00pm – Council Meeting	19	20	21	22 6:00-8:00pm - Frog Pond	23
24 8 th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Kenneth Gould Opener: Erin Readinger Greeter: Nancy Malandra Lector: Barbara Braucher	25 6:00-8:00pm – VBS at Bern Lutheran Church	26 4:30-7:00pm – Festival of Faith 6:00-8:00pm – VBS at Bern Lutheran Church	27 6:00-8:00pm – VBS at Bern Lutheran Church	28 6:00-8:00pm – VBS at Bern Lutheran Church	29 6:00-8:00pm - Frog Pond	30
31 9 th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor David Kistler Opener: Dianne Leininger Greeter: Barb Auchenbach Lector: Caroline Eichner						

