



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 January is sponsored in memory of Antonia Vacula's birthday by Phil and JoAnn Ketz.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Estimates are being acquired to fix the leak at the steeple.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2023, after our worship service.
- Received a letter from Senior Berners that they are disbanding at the end of December 2022.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **January 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite all children to join us for Sunday School. We meet from 11:00-11:30 a.m. **PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Sunday School on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1.**

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. **There will be no Confirmation classes on Sunday, January 1.**

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

It is once again time to begin preparing the Annual Book of Reports for 2022.

Please submit all reports to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 8**, so that they can be assembled and available prior to the February Congregational Meeting.



COUNCIL MEMBER INSTALLATION

At our worship service on Sunday, January 8, our council members will be installed. Let us pray for their service to Bern Lutheran Church throughout the year.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed the week of January 16. Our Secretary, Korinne, will be out of the office. She will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 24. Phone messages and emails will be checked daily.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the January *Bern Bugle* are due by Tuesday, January 17.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The company that provides our offering envelopes is having some difficulties this year with machinery, supplies, and staffing issues.

Our order has been placed, but has not been mailed yet.

In the meantime, you may still send in your contributions using a blank envelope indicating how you would like your contribution distributed. Please make sure to include your name on the envelope so that you will be given the proper credit. I have included an envelope with this newsletter. Thank you for your understanding.



END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your end-of-year contribution statements should be arriving in your mailbox by the end of January. Please check them over carefully and notify Korinne in the church office of any discrepancies.

SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you for your overwhelming response to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Angel Tree program. All of the name tags were selected, and because of your generosity, these children had a wonderful Christmas holiday.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

With Senior Berners disbanding the end of December 2022, if you would like to have your blood pressure checked, please call Terri Shurr at 610-372-7229 to set up a time.

BERN CEMETERY COMPANY AND HISTORIC GRAVEYARD

The Bern Cemetery Company and Historic Graveyard is a federal nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3), so donations are tax deductible by the donor. In the case of donations to "Wreaths Across America," no goods or services are considered to have been provided by the organization in exchange for the contribution.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Just a reminder to consider designating your "Choice Dollars" to Bern Lutheran Church. This program continues to benefit our church through your quarterly designations. Thrivent's phone number is 800-847-4836. When you hear the menu of options, simply say "Choice Dollars" and you will be connected to an operator to conduct the transaction. To make your designation by email, go to www.Thrivent.com and fill in the necessary information.



Blessings to the Bern Lutheran Family, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the generous congregation for my Christmas gift. I have enjoyed working with you for many months and I will continue to help in any way that I can. My prayer is that you will find pastoral leadership very soon. Merry Christmas and thank you once again for the gift. – Blessing, *Pastor Gary Rarick*

Dear members of Bern Lutheran Church, I can't begin to describe how much your thoughtfulness and kindness mean to me. I am just so grateful to be working and worshiping here at Bern among a wonderful group of people. Your generosity is very much appreciated. I feel blessed to be here and I thank all of you for your friendship. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dianne Leininger and Evelyn Drobnick for their help throughout the year with the assembling of the newsletter. I appreciate all your help! – *Korinne Hotzman*

Members of Bern, thank you so much for your very generous Christmas gift. You make me feel loved and appreciated. – *Jane Battaglieri*

I believe that appreciation is a holy thing — that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred.

—Fred Rogers

WITH OUR SYMPATHY

Robert Russell Frey, Jr., 85, of Mohrsville, PA passed away on Saturday, December 24, 2022 at Rosewood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Schuylkill Haven. Born in Reading, PA on July 28, 1937, he was a son of the late Robert Russell Frey, Sr. and Mary (Kaucher) Frey. In addition to his parents, Robert was preceded in death by his beloved wife Linda Eileen (Hilgendorf) Frey; his daughter Sue Wiczowski; and two brothers George Frey and Alan Frey. Robert is survived by two daughters, Michelle Frey and Brenda Frey; a son Robert R. Frey III; sisters Mary Ann Bertoud and Virginia Beck; and a granddaughter Melinda Wiczowski. A graveside committal for Robert was held on Friday, December 30, at Forest Hills Memorial Park, Reading, PA. Contributions in Robert's memory may be made to Freedom Center for Animal Life-Saving Reading, 1801 N. 11th Street, Reading, PA 19604 and/or The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Bldg. 0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003.



TAKE-OUT PORK 'N SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Epler's UCC, 1151 West Leesport Road, is holding Pork 'n Sauerkraut dinner on New Year's Day, **January 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Cost is \$12.00 per person. Children age 6-12 is \$6.00. Please contact Judy Kline at 610-926-1753.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT EPLER'S UCC: FOOD & FAITH

Do you struggle to get ready for worship on a Sunday morning? Are you looking for worship that is not as liturgical or traditional, but you still want to have an opportunity to worship and receive Communion? Join along with the congregation of Epler's UCC for fellowship and worship with a relaxed feel on **Friday, January 6, 2023** and be lifted up by the Spirit. A fellowship meal will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Our theme for the evening will be "Jesus and Immigration." Special music will be by Pastor Gary. Dress is casual and membership is not required to attend. Children are welcome; and they may benefit from the more informal format of these services. Check out Epler's UCC website at www.eplerschurch.org.



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Jamie Wismer
- 2 Charles Lash
- 5 Cindy Reilly
- 7 Bonnie Bohnenblust
- 10 Hattie Schuler
- 12 Nathaniel Rollman
- 13 Richard Greener *
- 13 Brooke Noecker
- 14 David Hartman
- 20 Asher Kneeream
- 25 Elena Goetz
- 26 Robert Hissinger
- 27 Barry Eiche
- 27 Pauline Shuman *
- 27 G. Michael Zimmermann
- 28 Jane Battaglieri
- 28 Hannah Lash



None this month.

ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

In order to provide high quality weekly bulletins and cover mailing costs, we invite you to become an Altar Flower sponsor for \$35.00/week or a Bulletin sponsor for only \$20.00/week. You can also sponsor our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month. You are welcome to sponsor any of these items in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. Sign-up sheets for 2023 are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

"Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see."

—Roy T. Bennett

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 January:

January 1 – *sponsor needed*
January 8 – Kate and Brent Schuler
January 15 – *sponsor needed*
January 22 – *sponsor needed*
January 29 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin sponsors for January:

January 1 – Caroline Eichner
January 8 – *sponsor needed*
January 15 – Dianne Leininger
January 22 – *sponsor needed*
January 29 – *sponsor needed*

Church Openers for January:

January 1 – Dianne Leininger
January 8 – Erin Readinger
January 15 – Theresa Shurr
January 22 – Richard Gruber
January 29 – Matthew Kasisky

Church Greeters for January:

January 1 – Barbara Auchenbach
January 8 – Nancy Malandra
January 15 – Barbara Auchenbach
January 22 – Nancy Malandra
January 29 – Barbara Auchenbach

Lectors for January:

January 1 – Donna Marks
January 8 – Kate Schuler
January 15 – Brenda Reichart
January 22 – Richard Gruber
January 29 – Barbara Braucher

Supply Pastor Schedule:

January 1 – Pastor William Fryer
January 8 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
January 15 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
January 22 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
January 29 – Pastor David Kistler

JOIN IN THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – January 18-25, 2023

Join with the many faithful Christian denominations around the world for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The theme for 2023 is “Do Good, Seek Justice.”

The theme is inspired by Isaiah 1:12-18, which laments a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet it also promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice. Like Isaiah, we hope to inspire a renewed desire and effort for justice among the Christian peoples around the world.



Calling to mind our common Christian commitment to justice and mercy, we pray that the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be full of moments of conversion of heart through our ecumenical encounters, so that “all may be one.”

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Family and friends of Robert R. Frey, Jr., Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Tina Hissinger, George Schaeffer, Tim Moyer, Jane Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Jim Maurer, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, Bishop Christopher deForest, Eleanor, Shannon Helms, Austin Kennedy, 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



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO STEWARD YOUR LIFE

Have any resolutions for 2023? (It's not too late to make them!) New Year's resolutions are a great way to boost the stewardship of your life. After all, resolutions are just goals for enriching our lives. Here are some areas to consider:

Spirituality: Grow in faith by engaging spiritual practices. Resolve to pray and read scripture daily, attend worship, give generously, cultivate spiritual relationships, serve church and community.

Health: Gain vitality by resolving to lose weight, eat healthfully, exercise regularly, learn about health and nutrition and get checkups at your doctor and dentist.

Intellect: Keep your mind active by resolving to read books, check out educational programs and podcasts, take a class to learn a new language or skill.

Relationships: Resolve to make new friendships and deepen existing ones. Work on family relationships to strengthen bonds and bring people closer to you and other family members.

Leisure: Include resolutions to help you enjoy life! Vacations, hobbies, activities, getaways, day trips.

Financial: Get your financial house in order. Resolve to make and keep a budget, reduce debt, increase income, save more and become more learned in money matters.

We are stewards of the life that God has given us. For 2023, pray for God's guidance and make a few resolutions that address your priority issues. And pray for God's help in keeping them. Blessings for 2023!

--Rob Blezard

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INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
12/04/22	\$ 3,820.50	61
12/11/22	2,753.50	59
12/18/22	2,524.00	65
12/24/22 (Christmas Eve)	4,453.00	64

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$18,281.00	\$173,985.00
Congregational Fund Raising	_____ .00	_____ 3,610.00
Total Funds	<u>\$18,281.00</u>	<u>\$177,595.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$13,416.00	\$130,286.00
Non-Budgeted Income	4,865.00	47,310.00
Budgeted Expenses	5,929.00	127,988.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	4,668.00	15,841.00
Benevolence to be Paid	353.00	2,247.00
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$7,331.00	\$31,520.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2022 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$2,087.50	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	854.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	778.50	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	433.00	600.00
Other	5,123.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$105.00	\$1,485.00
Interest	.37	5.95
Expense	_____ .00	_____ 0.00
		<u>\$42,333.00</u>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$1,278.00
Interest	36.46
Expenses	
(Festival of Faith -\$1,000.00)	
(Piano Tuning-\$145.00)	_____ \$1,145.00
	<u>\$131,898.00</u>

TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
 - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
 - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
 - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
 - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
 - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
 - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!



Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

God made wild animals and livestock.

God said, "Let there be light."

God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.

God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky."

God created plants and trees.

God separated the light from the darkness.

God made the water teem with living creatures.

God made the sun and moon.

God made birds fly above the earth.

God made stars.

God created mankind in his own image.

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God _aw all tha_ he _ad ma_e, an _ _t was ve_y g_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fifth, sixth, first, fourth, and it was very good.



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



Generosity and Vitality in the **NOW** Normal

A Stewardship Extravaganza

January 21, 2023 | Trinity, Lansdale



Generosity And Vitality In The NOW Normal
Sponsored by the Southeastern PA and Northeastern PA
Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saturday, January 21, 2023
8 A.M. To 4 P.M.

Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446

An In-Person Only Event
Cost: \$40 per person (includes lunch)
FREE for SEPA/NEPA Synod seminarians and first-call
pastors

Engage with outstanding church leaders in plenary
presentations and question-and-answer sessions.



Keynote:

Ryan Burge: "The Nones:
From The Overlooked
Category to Impossible
to Miss in Less Than
Fifty Years"

Register Now!

Join us!

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/
LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2023**

**JUNE
1-3**



ELCA

A Fresh Look for the ELCA

The ELCA has released refreshed branding featuring a cleaner look and a modified color scheme. Learn more at elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Branding. The new logos should be used in digital media including websites, email, and social media. Printed materials may be used until they are depleted.

JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Name of Jesus 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion Opener: Dianne Leininger Lector: Donna Marks</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00pm-Food and Faith Worship Service, Epler's UCC 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Baptism of Our Lord 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship with Holy Communion -Installation of Council -Committee Reports Due 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Erin Readinger Lector: Kate Schuler</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00am-5:00pm-Anti-racism Training (Social Hall Rental)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00 am-Sunday School Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Brenda Reichart</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm-Council Meeting</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:30pm-Berks Quilters Guild Korinne – Out of Office</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Korinne – Out of Office</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00am-5:00pm-Anti-racism Training - Snow Date (Social Hall Rental) Korinne – Out of Office</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Richard Gruber</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:00pm-Festival of Faith</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Matthew Kasisky Lector: Barbara Braucher</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				