

✧ WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT ✧

Newsletter – September 2018

The West Berks Mission District is a coalition of area Lutheran churches working together to do effective, cooperative ministry. YOU are a member of the West Berks Mission District!

The WBMD office is located in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1015 Windsor Street, Reading PA 19604.

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Join us for TableTalk III on Monday, October 15th at the McGlinn Conference Center from 7-9 PM. This is a free event and all are welcome to join the conversation on the topic

Embracing Fractured Stained Glass: Death and Life in Churches

Broadly speaking, individual, mainline churches have seen a decline in membership, attendance, and overall giving. There has been much attention given to trying to understand why this decline has happened and how it can be reversed. There has been much less work on how the decline of individual churches may be a function of life-cycle and other factors outside the control of “revival.” This presentation will explore the decline of individual congregations from the perspective of mortality: death, even of churches, is the one truly inevitable part of life. It will also discuss ways in which walking with churches who are dying might follow a “hospice model” where meaning-making and memory, past and future, is the end goal. Finally, it will work to describe practical steps clergy, administration, congregation councils, and lay people might take to work toward the goal of a good church death.

Our invited presenter is G. Travis Woodfield, a self-described theological mosaic. He has a BA in Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, an MA in Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University, and life experience ranging from fishmonger to admissions counselor to friar to chaplain. As a Carpenter Fellow for Community Engagement, he earned a Masters in Divinity from Wake Forest University in May 2018. While a Demon Deacon, he worked at the Center for Congregational Health, developing a model for congregational hospice care. Oh... and you can ask him to do a magic trick or two!

Rostered Ministers Event - On the afternoon of October 15th, Travis has offered to meet with Rostered Ministers of the WBMD to dive a bit deeper into the topic and address the concerns specifically facing rostered leaders of the church. They will gather at 3:30 PM at *Mangia! Italian Restaurant* at 322 East Wyomissing Avenue, Mohnton for a time of fellowship and the presentation. There will be time for conversation and then we will enjoy dinner together and finish by 6:30 PM so that those who wish can meet up with others from their congregation who will be attending the TableTalk event at the McGlinn Conference Center at 7:00 PM. Please email Dawn@westberksmissiondistrict.org to register for this event. Menu options coming soon...



CROP Walk Fundraiser / Kick-off Event **Thursday, September 6, from 4-9 PM.**

Bring a group of family and friends to dine in or take out at the Spring Ridge Isaac's (in Wyomissing).

Isaac's will contribute 25% of your bill to our CROP Hunger Walk!

(Coupons are needed. Find them on the WBMD website.)

All CROP Walk team materials will be available for pick-up at Isaac's Sept. 6th as well.

Reading-Berks CROP Hunger Walk **Sunday, October 7th at Gring's Mill**

Registration opens at 12:30 PM. Walk starts at 1:30 PM.

Choose from a 1, 3 or 5-mile loop

Help fight hunger one step at a time!

All proceeds benefit Church World Service (75%) and the Greater Berks Food Bank (25%).

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Sunday, September 9th, 2018

What does your congregation have planned for this special day of service?

Reformation Lutheran in Reiffton invites you to celebrate with them at their annual Block Party that includes Service Projects, Food, Music, Moon Bounce, Games & More!

This year's event will benefit **The Lutheran Pantry** – an urban food ministry in the city of Reading.

Day's schedule:

9am **Celebratory Worship**

10:30am - 2pm **Block Party**

11am **Community Unity 5K Run**

& Free 1/2 Mile Kids Fun Run

11am - 2pm **Kauffman's Chicken BBQ**

1/2 Chicken BBQ, Bun, Baked Potato, Applesauce & Beverage for \$9 (Eat-in or Take-Out)

FOR TICKETS, CALL: 610-779-0534

For more info visit: www.reformationlutheran.org

Family Promise is now seeking sponsors for their gala – call 610-373-3323 for more information and tickets for the event.



CAMP NOAH

at St. Luke's Lutheran
in Reading PA

Camp Noah started out a bit slow, ironically due to the flooding rains pouring down on Monday morning, but the energy, enthusiasm, and number of campers grew each day! Many trained volunteers worked with more than 30 campers to help them experience God's love and to help them work through challenging circumstances. Most of the campers were living in Puerto Rico when last September's hurricanes struck the island. They have left their homes, to find a new life here in Reading. Many said goodbye to family members and friends and all that was familiar to them. This camp lets them know there are people here who care about them and will offer their help and support!

Special thanks to all who helped make Camp Noah possible by volunteering your time, offering prayers, and through your generous financial support!

WBMD Calendar of Events

- Sept. 6 CROP Walk fundraiser at Isaac's
- October 4 Family Promise Taste of Hope
- October 7 Annual CROP Hunger Walk
- October 15 Rostered Ministers event
- October 15 TableTalk III
- October 23 WBMD Council meeting

More information on these and other events can be found on our web-site!

www.westberksmissiondistrict.org