

✧ WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT ✧

Newsletter – March 2019

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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WBMD Bowl-a-Thon Sunday, March 3rd at Berks Lanes

Get a group together to have fun while supporting our WBMD Youth Ministries!

Bowl-a-thon Registration and Sponsorship forms have been emailed to church offices and are posted on our website; or, you can call the WBMD office for information.

Teams can request to bowl from either 1-3 PM or 3-5 PM

All bowlers bowl for 2 hours at no charge, (shoes included) and will also enjoy a snack & drink. We ask each bowler to try to raise at least **\$15 in sponsorships**.

This event is open to youth groups, Sunday School classes, Seniors groups, etc. – **ALL ages are welcome and encouraged to participate!** Bumper bowling is also available. Come join us for this day of fun, fellowship, and fundraising for a great cause! Lanes are limited! Call WBMD to register!



WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT Annual Lenten Prayer Breakfast at 8:00 AM

Wednesday, April 17 at The Inn at Reading

1040 Park Road Wyomissing PA 19610

The Inn at Reading offers easy parking and is handicap accessible.

Cost is **\$18** for a breakfast buffet including:
breakfast pastries and biscuits, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs,
cinnamon French toast, red potatoes, bacon, coffee, tea and juice

**Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Steven Shussett on the topic:
“Spiritual Well-being: Becoming Who We Were Meant to Be”**

**Please encourage members of your congregation to attend this special event. Invite your friends!
We will be seated at tables of 8 or 10 – and we will reserve tables for groups of 6 or more people.**

Registration material now available on our website!

WBMD Spring Assembly

Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 PM

Location to be determined

Please note the change in date!

Due to this year's late date for Ascension Day, on May 30th, and the shortened, one-day Synod Assembly on June 1st, we have decided to forgo our combined WBMD Ascension Day Service and Spring Assembly.

This year our Synod may be asking us to do some specific preparation work leading up to the Synod Assembly. Bishop Zeiser is encouraging congregations **to send the same representatives to both the Mission District and Synod Assembly this year** so that some required Synod work can be started at the Mission District Assemblies if that is deemed necessary.

We will share a listing of any churches who may be holding Ascension Day worship at their churches on May 30th in our May Newsletter for anyone who is interested in attending. So, **please let us know if your congregation will be planning a worship opportunity on Ascension Day.**

Johnson-Agiri family update – The family has just purchased a 2008 minivan which will provide Tola with reliable transportation to his job. The family is now mostly self-sufficient but still seeks the prayers and support of us all as their asylum process continues and they learn more about our American ways of doing things. The children will again be interested in attending any summer activities you are planning and transporting them should not be an issue this year. Consider inviting them to your VBS or other summer camps you may provide.

LUTHERAN PANTRY REPORT

Special thanks to all of you who made special donations to the Lutheran Pantry in 2018! For the first time in many years, the donations specified for the Lutheran Pantry nearly covered the expenses.

The WBMD currently pays the Greater Berks Food Bank invoices for the food they provide to our six pantries in and around the city of Reading. Those pantries are housed at these WBMD Lutheran churches: Bethany in West Reading, Christ in the Glenside neighborhood, Hope at Front & Greenwich, Incarnation on Lancaster Avenue, St. John's on Walnut Street, and St. Paul's at 16th & Perkiomen.

The money you give to the Lutheran Pantry helps pay to provide food to about 3,000 people each month. Food drive donations can be shared directly with any of these church pantries. Together we are feeding our hungry neighbors! Thank you!

Upcoming Event for Rostered Ministers!

On **Thursday, May 2** we will have our annual gathering with Bishop Zeiser as we worship together and hear what he has to share regarding the "State of the Synod". We will also hear briefly from Rev. Rebecca Ehrlich from United Lutheran Seminary. We will have time for Q&A with both of them and then there will be a lunch option as well. Please save the date!

WBMD 2019 Calendar of Events

March 3	Bowl-a-thon at Berks Lanes
March 26	WBMD Council at Atonement
April 15	GRIP Immigration Summit at Alvernia
April 17	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
May 2	WB Rostered Ministers w/ Bishop Zeiser
May 14	Spring Assembly
June 1	NEPS Assembly
June 24-28	WBMD offers Bear Creek Day Camp
October 13	Reading-Berks CROP Hunger Walk

Please plan now to attend these events! Check our website for more information.