

✧ **WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT** ✧
Newsletter – April 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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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!

Please complete and mail with remittance.

Reservation Form for the Lenten Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Name _____
Phone # _____
Congregation _____
Number attending _____

Amount enclosed @ \$18 each _____
Make checks payable to WBMD and mail to:
West Berks Mission District
1015 Windsor Street, Reading PA 19604

Deadline for Registrations is April 10th. We expect a crowd so please register early!

ECUMENICAL EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil is an ancient Christian worship service—far older than most of the worship patterns we are used to in the 21st century. It begins outdoors with the lighting anew of the paschal candle and then moves inside for readings and prayers that tell the story of God’s creation and redemption of the world. Finally the Easter gospel is read, announcing the resurrection of Jesus. The quiet and contemplation of the service are broken by the joy of Christ’s new life. Then the community celebrates Holy Communion as a central act of rejoicing in God’s salvation. When all is concluded, people return to their homes and to rest. Easter morning worship, then, becomes the bright and crisp echo of the good news first heard in the darkness of the night before.

On Saturday April 20th, St. Alban’s Episcopal Church and the WBMD will be celebrating a combined service of **the Great Vigil of Easter** out of *The Book of Common Prayer*— **8:00 pm at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 2848 St. Alban's Drive, Sinking Spring, PA, 19608**. Plenty of parking is available in the lot, and the whole building is easily accessible. The service will last about an hour and a half and will feature readings, chanted psalms, anthems from a combined choir, hymns, a sermon, and Holy Eucharist. The entire community is invited to worship, and leaders from St. Alban’s will be accompanied by clergy and other leaders from St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Mohnton.

Please call the WBMD if you are interested in joining the choir. (610-375-8303) There will be a single practice earlier on the day of the worship service.

Rostered Ministers meeting with Bishop

On **Thursday, May 2** we will have our annual WBMD gathering with Bishop Zeiser. The meeting will be at Allegheny Lutheran Church with worship beginning at 9:30. Then we will hear from the Bishop on the “State of the Synod” followed by time for Q&A and conversation. A lunch and additional opportunity for fellowship will be available for a suggested \$10 donation.

WBMD Spring Assembly

Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 PM
At Bern Lutheran Church

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.

Let us know if you will be hosting an Ascension Day Service at your church so we can advertise it on our website!



Thanks to everyone who bowled in this year’s Bowl-a-thon! We raised almost \$2,000 for our summer day camp and everyone had a great time!

WBMD 2019 Calendar of Events

- April 15 GRIP Immigration Summit at Alvernia
- April 17 Lenten Prayer Breakfast
- April 20 Easter Vigil at St. Alban’s
- May 2 WB Rostered Ministers w/ Bishop Zeiser
- May 14 WBMD Spring Assembly at Bern
- June 1 NEPS Assembly
- June 24-28 WBMD offers Bear Creek Day Camp
- Sept. 25 Family Promise “Taste of Hope”
- October 13 Reading-Berks CROP Hunger Walk

Check our website for more information.