



WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT

Newsletter - December 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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THANK YOU REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH!!!



God's work. Our hands. Sunday was celebrated at Reformation Lutheran Church in Reiffton on September 9th with a Festive Worship service, 5K Run, and Community Block Party. The Rev. Dr. Michael Bennethum was the guest preacher and local First Responders were honored. A rain-soaked Community Unity 5K Run, Kids Fun Run and community Block Party featuring service projects, inflatable games, music, food, and more **raised \$2,275.00 for West Berks Mission District food pantries in the city of Reading.** Congregation members also donated over \$750 towards chicken BBQ meals for the First Responders. God's work. Our hands. Sharing the love of God with our community!

Special thanks for your continued support of the Johnson-Agiri family from Nigeria!

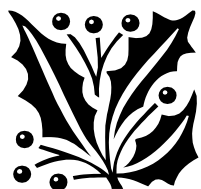
Their next hearing and the judge's asylum decision will be on Tuesday, December 11th in Philadelphia. If anyone could offer the use of a 7-passenger vehicle for this trip it would be greatly appreciated. The school-age children do not need to attend the hearing but we would like to take some extra people for support! If the judge's decision is to NOT offer asylum to the family, their lawyer has explained that there is an appeal process. Hopefully asylum WILL be granted, and they can live their life without fear of being sent back to Nigeria.

To all of you who have offered financial support, donated clothing and household goods, given gift cards for grocery and department stores, shared a smile and a laugh with the children; to all who have been "the hands and feet of Jesus" in service to this family – we give thanks for the blessings you have shared. The family is so grateful and overwhelmed by the love and support they have received from our community!

Please continue to keep them in your prayers...

Retired Leaders Group ...

Just a reminder - the retired leaders group continues to meet for **breakfast** at 9:00 on the **first Thursday of each month** at Heidelberg Restaurant on Route 422 in Robesonia. All are welcome and no reservations are required. Come join us December 6th for this time of fellowship.



Christmas Luncheon

***Thursday, December 13th at 1:00 PM
at Ozgood's Restaurant***

Each person orders from the menu and pays for his or her own meal. No program - just good food, good company, and singing some Christmas carols!

Reservations are required!

Call Liz Charles at 610-775-4484 by Dec. 7th



Alternative Gift Ideas for Christmas...

If you struggle to think of what to get for someone who has "everything" a charitable gift given in his or her name could be an amazing blessing to someone who has very little - a very meaningful gift indeed. Please consider making a donation to these local ministries:

- ✦ ***The Lutheran Pantry***
- ✦ ***Common Ground Recovery Ministry***
- ✦ ***Hope's Table at Hope Lutheran in Reading***
- ✦ ***Wednesday's with Jesus at St. Paul's, Rdg***
- ✦ ***Family Promise of Berks County***
- ✦ ***GRIP Dreamer Scholarship Fund***

*For a more global perspective, you may wish to consider checking into the **ELCA's Good Gifts** opportunities at www.elca.org/goodgifts or call 1-800-638-3522 for a catalog.*

Some possibilities include gifts of farm animals, mosquito nets, child immunizations, roof shingles, soccer balls, water wells, and microloans.

YOUR gift can make a difference!

WBMD Calendar of 2019 Events

Jan. 9	Epiphany Luncheon for Rostered Ministers
Jan. 22	WBMD Council at St. John Mohnton
March 3	Bowl-a-thon at Berks Lanes
March 26	WBMD Council at Atonement
April 17	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
May 2	WB Rostered Ministers w/ Bishop Zeiser
May 30	Ascension Service & Spring Assembly
June 24-28	WBMD Day Camp with Bear Creek Camp
October 13	Reading-Berks CROP Hunger Walk

***Wishing you a blessed and peaceful
Advent and Christmas season!***

You might enjoy these special concerts...

***Ringgold Band at Schwarzwald – Dec. 2 at 3 pm
Charlie Zahm at Allegheny – Dec. 7 at 7 pm***

Check the website for more information.