



WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT

Newsletter - December 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 Ministry Report for 2019 - Thanks to your faithful, generous and consistent giving...

- ✝ Our **Lutheran Pantries** feed nearly 2,800 people each month! These pantries are located at Incarnation, St. Paul's, Hope, St. John's Reading, Christ Glenside, and Bethany West Reading. These pantries are supported in part through the benevolence of our 40 WBMD congregations. Many congregations also participate in pantries in their local communities as well. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ 35 teams participated in our annual **Bowl-a-thon** at Berks Lanes to raise money for our summer day camp. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ 91 people enjoyed our annual **Lenten Prayer Breakfast** at the Inn at Reading with our guest speaker, the Rev. Steven Shussett speaking on "Our Spiritual Well-being". *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ 48 children from across the WBMD enjoyed a fabulous week of **Day Camp** with Bear Creek Camp counselors providing the program. Thanks to Allegheny Lutheran for hosting. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ WBMD continues our partnership with the **Greater Reading Immigration Project** to provide education about immigration issues through an annual Immigration Summit and raises money for the Dreamer Scholarship Fund for DACA and undocumented students. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ Many of our congregations continue to be involved with and financially support **Family Promise** and their ministry with homeless families with children. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ At our **WBMD Fall Assembly**, we enjoyed a feast of international foods provided by the folks at Trinity Robesonia and heard a report from the Greater Reading Immigration Project and some local youth about challenges and obstacles facing DACA recipients. We also heard from Pastor May Wolfe about the soon to be opened Café Esperanza – a pay as you can café located at Front & Greenwich Streets in Reading. We encourage your continued interest and support for these ministries. *Thanks for your support!*

As the 40 Lutheran Congregations of the WBMD, we are serving our community in Christ's name.

Witnessing Boldly & Making a Difference! We are grateful for your support!

WBMD YOUTH EVENT at Allegheny Lutheran Church

Saturday, FEBRUARY 29 for youth in grades 5-12! Music, service, fun, friends and fellowship!

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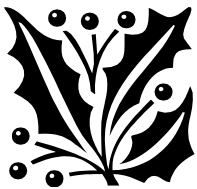
Our annual **BOWL-A-THON** on Sunday, March 15th at **BERKS LANES** !

Put together a team of 5 and come for an afternoon of bowling fun and raise funds for Day Camp!

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for these events!

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 5th for this time of fellowship.



Christmas Luncheon

*Thursday, December 12th 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. 6th



Alternative Gift Ideas for Christmas...

If you struggle to think of what to get 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 Community*
- ✦ *Family Promise of Berks County*
- ✦ *GRIP Dreamer Scholarship Fund*
- ✦ *Café Esperanza* a "pay as you can" cafe

*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 makes a difference!

WBMD Calendar of 2020 Events

- Jan. 8 Epiphany Luncheon for Rostered Ministers
- Jan. 10-11 Extravagant Generosity stewardship event at Trinity Lansdale
- Jan. 28 WBMD Council at St. John Mohnton
- Feb. 29 Youth Event at Allegheny
- March 15 Bowl-a-thon at Berks Lanes
- March 24 WBMD Council
- April 1 Lenten Prayer Breakfast
- May 21 Ascension Service & Spring Assembly
- June 4-6 NEPS Assembly – electing a Bishop
- June 22-26 WBMD Day Camp with Bear Creek Camp
- October 11 Reading-Berks CROP Hunger Walk

***Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Advent and Christmas season!
You might enjoy these special concerts...***

***Dec. 1 – Handel's Messiah 4:00 PM at
Muhlenberg High School***

***Dec. 8 – Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir
7:00 PM at West Lawn United Methodist***

***Dec. 22 – St. Daniel's Christmas Vesper
Service with the Reading Pops 4:00 PM
at Conrad Weiser High School
Check the website for more information.***