

✧ WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT ✧

Newsletter – June-July 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.

WBMD Director – Dawn Baxter Dawn@westberksmissiondistrict.org
Office Staff/ Bookkeeper - Jane McClellan Renner Jane@westberksmissiondistrict.org
Office Phone – 610-375-8303 Website: www.westberksmissiondistrict.org



**West Berks Mission District
invites you to attend our
Bear Creek Day Camp!**

**Come meet new friends,
sing camp songs, have more fun!**



Monday - Friday June 25 - 29 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Camp is for all children who have completed grades K – 6.

It is being held at **Allegheny Lutheran Church,**

1327 Alleghenyville Road (Rte 568) in Knauers, 19540

Cost is just \$30 for the week! (Scholarships available)

Check our website for Registration materials or call 610-375-8303.



WBMD Music Camp

July 30 - August 3

9:00 AM to Noon

**at Trinity Lutheran Church
130 S. Walnut Street Wernersville**

For youth who've completed grade 1-6.
Show on Friday, August 3 at 1:00 PM

CAMP NOAH

August 13-17, 2018

at St. Luke's Lutheran in
Reading PA



Lutherans of Berks County are organizing a special Camp Noah for the children of families who have relocated here from Puerto Rico after the devastation of Hurricane Maria. According to Centro Hispano, more than 350 families have arrived in our local communities! Camp Noah is designed for children who have experienced a disaster and is meant to help them in their healing process.

VOLUNTEERS are needed. Please contact the WBMD for more information if interested.

Report from the WBMD Spring Assembly

We welcomed about 65 people for our Ascension Worship service. We collected \$490 in offering which was sent to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Baltimore, the ministry chosen by our guest preacher, the Rev. Laura Sinche. This church serves an impoverished community and is making a difference in their neighborhood.

At the Assembly, Pastor Mark Rigg from Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn was elected to serve as our Dean. Rev. Rachael Dietz, Judy Stoudt and Deacon Kathy Yenser were elected to the WBMD Council. Rev. June Bair was re-elected as our liaison to the Synod Council. Steve Barnett was elected as our lay male voting member to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and Larry Grybosky will be our alternate if Steve cannot go.

We heard a report from Rev. Mary Wolfe as she completed her second term as Dean; we are grateful for her faithful service. Associate to the Bishop, Rev. John Richter reported on the status of WBMD congregations in transition.

A challenge grant from the Reading Lutheran Parish was offered as we try to raise funds to support Camp Noah which will be held in Reading this August for children who fled Puerto Rico following last year's devastating hurricanes. **The RLP will match up to \$5,000 in donations for Camp Noah.** Please find a creative way that your congregation might help or, if you're not feeling too creative - just take a special offering to support Camp Noah and your gifts will be doubled through the grant! Checks can be made payable to and sent to WBMD and we will forward the funds plus the match to Camp Noah.

A resolution was brought to the floor of the Assembly tasking the WBMD Council with prioritizing the importance of ministry to the poor and to find effective ways to use WBMD resources to support ministries helping people in need. The resolution carried unanimously; the WBMD staff and Dean Rigg are on board. Thus, **we** (Dean, staff, and Assembly members) **encourage all WBMD congregations to reconsider their support of our Lutheran Pantries.** Donations to this ministry have been waning as the need in the areas being served has grown. Can you find a time before the end of 2018 to do a special food & funds collection to help feed our hungry neighbors? We are in this ministry together!

God's work. Our hands.



Grace Malowa Favor
Johnson-Agiri
Born May 17, 2018
8 lbs. 6 oz.

The Johnson-Agiri family from Nigeria has welcomed a new daughter into their family. To celebrate this blessing, the WBMD is hosting a baby shower on Saturday, June 23rd from 1:00-3:00. The event will be held at Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn; all congregations are invited.

Stop in to meet the family and enjoy some light refreshments. If you'd like to bring a gift, we are encouraging gift cards or cash so they can purchase what they need as they need it. They are so grateful for your caring support!

In order to prepare appropriately, kindly RSVP to the WBMD with the number of folks who plan to attend. Thanks! Call: 610-375-8303 or Email: Dawn@westberksmissiondistrict.org

Johnson-Agiri family update –

Tola's work authorization has still not been approved. They are refileing and were told he would be eligible on June 19, 2018. He has completed the Workforce Development Program through the Literacy Council and has been tutored in his English pronunciation. He completed a Penn State Berks training course on 3-D Printing and an online course through Six Sigma. He is anxious to find employment.

The children, now 5, 7 and 9, are all finishing up school. They have done very well and their teachers have been pleased with their progress in both their studies and socializations skills. Could you invite them to your VBS this summer and provide transportation?

Your continued financial support and offers of gently used clothing are still greatly appreciated. Call WBMD for more information and sizes.

WBMD Calendar of Events

- June 8-9 NEP Synod Assembly in Wilkes-Barre
- June 25-29 WBMD/ Bear Creek Day Camp
- July 30-Aug 3 WBMD Music Camp
- August 13-17 Camp Noah in Reading
- August 28 WBMD Council meeting
- Sept. 6 CROP Walk fundraiser at Isaac's
- October 4 Family Promise Taste of Hope
- October 7 Annual CROP Hunger Walk
- October 23 WBMD Council meeting

More information and registration materials will be posted on our web-site as they become available.