

✧ WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT ✧

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

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!

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Reading-Berks 41st Annual CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 9, 2022 at Gring's Mill Recreation Area

We are excited to hold this year's CROP Walk at Gring's Mill but as we did last year, rather than congregating as a large group at the bridge before the Walk, **registration will be from 12:30-2:00 PM** and your group can begin walking whenever you are ready. But, with COVID still around, we are also offering the virtual Walk option again as well. So, if you and/or your group would rather Walk in a small group around your church neighborhood that would be awesome as well! Walk on October 9th or any time before then.

It is urgent that we find ways to engage our community to continue raising funds to fight hunger as the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and many natural disasters have created increased need for food. We are encouraging groups or individuals to WALK for this important cause. Walk at Gring's Mill! Walk in your neighborhood! Walk around your church! Walk in your home! We strongly encourage you to register online for our Reading-Berks Walk by going to www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa and following the instructions. Encourage your sponsors to donate online as well. Please feel free to contact us if you need help!

AGAIN... We strongly encourage walkers to register online and direct their supporters to make donations online as well but **if you prefer having the printed materials and envelopes for walkers**, they are available. Please call Dawn at 610-223-2305 to arrange drop-off of materials. Please share information with your walkers and church members and encourage them to raise funds!

As always, 75% of the money raised at our Hunger Walk goes to support Church World Service's mission to feed hungry people around the world by helping them develop self-sustaining methods of growing crops and raising livestock. 25% of the money raised will go to Helping Harvest, our local food bank, which provides food for those in need living in Berks and Schuylkill Counties.

PLEASE...

- Share information about the Walk with your Facebook friends and share the link for them to donate online
- If you have questions or need more information, call Dawn at 610-223-2305
- OR go to www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa
- OR check our **Facebook page**: <https://www.facebook.com/Reading-Berks-CROP-Hunger-Walk-332030921042472/>

Thank you for your generous support!

SAVE THE DATE! WBMD Fall Assembly
Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 PM

At their August meeting, the WBMD Council received retirement/resignations letters from both Jane and Dawn, the WBMD staff, as of the end of 2022. Please see a portion of Dawn's letter below...

This letter is to formally announce my intention to retire from my position as Director of the West Berk Mission District, effective December 31, 2022. Since beginning my work as the Mission Associate in August of 2004 and then transitioning to the Director position in 2007, it has been my honor and privilege to work beside the rostered ministers and lay leaders in our WBMD ministry partnerships.

As the re-visioning process for the WBMD continues, I pray that an obvious direction might emerge to encourage meaningful ministry going forward.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve in this position. I have greatly enjoyed my work and the relationships I've formed and celebrate the important ministries we have accomplished together over the years. To God be the Glory...

Sincerely, your Sister in Christ,
Dawn M. Baxter

From the WBMD Council...

Join our Table Talks!

While we celebrate the wonderful leadership our Mission District has had under Dawn Baxter, we are working on re-envisioning what our next steps are after her retirement in December.

West Berks Mission District recognizes the need and passion we have for continuing our ministries and missions focusing on our food ministries and our youth! This is where you come in!

We will be hosting two table talks to help build a group of people to focus on our food ministry and our work with our youth throughout our mission district.

On Wednesday, October 19th Amy Mietelski will be hosting a table talk via Zoom at 7pm to discuss the future of our food ministries in the West Berks Mission District. If you are interested in being a part of this discussion, please contact Amy at 610-451-1562 or at abmietel@gmail.com.

On Wednesday, October 26th , Kristen Kelly will be hosting a table talk via Zoom at 7pm to discuss the future of our youth ministries in the West Berks Mission District. If you are interested in being a part of this discussion, please contact Kristen at 717-333-2855 or at youthd@aelc.org

We are excited to come together and continue to work on our vision and future here in West Berks Mission District! We can't wait to have you join us in that visioning.