



WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT

Newsletter - December 2016

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 2016 - Thanks to your support...

- ✝ On average, our seven Lutheran Pantries continue to feed nearly 4,000 people each month! These pantries are located at Incarnation, St. Paul's, Hope, St. Luke's, St. John's Reading, Christ Glenside, and Bethany West Reading. A new pantry also opened at Grace in Shillington this year. These pantries are supported in part through the benevolence of our 43 WBMD congregations. Many congregations also participate in pantries in their local communities as well. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ 38 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!*
- ✝ 36 children and a crew of teen counselors participated in Music Camp hosted by Christ Lutheran in Reading in August. This was a new, day-long format with some new leadership as well. The kids learned and performed the musical "One World – One Home; In Perfect Harmony". What a joy filled week! *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ About 70 youth and their advisors participated in the 2016 WBMD Youth Event in February hosted by Reformation Lutheran Church. Care packages were prepared for our military personnel and the youth experienced what life is like in many parts of the world through the Water Project activity. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ 121 people enjoyed our Lenten Prayer Breakfast at the Inn at Reading with guest speaker, the Rev. David Lose, President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ Lutherans continue to be involved with and financially support ministries to the homeless through the Family Promise program for homeless families with children. *Thanks for your support!*
- ✝ At our Fall Assembly, we heard about the progress of two new mission starts in our WBMD. **Hope's Table** continues to serve a free community meal with worship every Tuesday evening at Hope Lutheran Church in Reading. **Common Ground Recovery Ministry** meets Wednesday evenings at Atonement and Sunday afternoons at Trinity Reading and is a combination worship service/12-step program. We collected \$1500 for each of these important ministries and encourage your continued partnership and financial support for these growing faith communities. *Thanks for your support!*

As the 43 Lutheran Congregations of the WBMD, we are serving our community in Christ's name.

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



Alternative Gift Ideas for Christmas...

When we 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 gift to these local ministries:

- ✦ **Common Ground Recovery Ministry**
- ✦ **Hope's Table**
- ✦ **The Lutheran Pantry**
- ✦ **Family Promise of Berks County**
- ✦ **GRIP Dreamer Scholarship Fund**

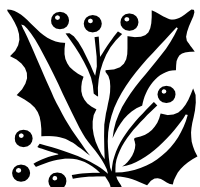
For a more global perspective, you may wish to consider checking into the **ELCA's Good Gifts** opportunities at www.elca.org/goodgifts or call 1-800-638-3522 for a catalog.

Some possibilities include gifts of farm animals, mosquito nets, child immunizations, roof shingles, soccer balls, water wells, and microloans. **YOU can make a difference!**

We are blessed to be a blessing...

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 3rd for this time of fellowship.



Christmas Luncheon

**Thursday, December 8th at 1:00 PM
at the Hitching Post 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 Nancy Ebling at 484-855-3546 by Dec. 1st



Mark your 2017 calendars NOW for these annual events!

WBMD Calendar of Events

December 1 – Retired Leaders breakfast

December 8 – Retired Leaders holiday lunch

Wishing all of you a blessed and peaceful Advent and Christmas season!

2017 Events – Mark your calendars NOW!

- Jan. 24 WBMD Council
- Feb. 17-18 WBMD Annual Youth Event
- March 12 Bowl-a-thon at Berks Lanes
- March 28 WBMD Council
- April 5 Lenten Prayer Breakfast
- October 8 Reading-Berks CROP Walk

WBMD YOUTH EVENT at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church FEBRUARY 17-18 for youth grades 5-12!

A great weekend of music, service, fun,
friends and fellowship!

&

Our BOWL-A-THON fundraiser

for WBMD Youth Ministries

March 12th at BERKS LANES !

Put together a team of 5 and come for an afternoon of bowling fun!

Come join us for these events!