

❖ **WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT** ❖
Newsletter – September 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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Help us pass the **MILLION DOLLAR** mark this year for money raised over the past 35 years to help feed our hungry neighbors!

Join the 35th Annual Reading-Berks **CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 9th at Gring's Mill.**

Registration begins at 12:30 PM

Walk starts at 1:30 PM

Choose from a 1, 3 or 5-mile loop.

Isaac's Fundraiser Kick-off Event Thursday, September 15 from 5-9 PM

Bring a group of family and friends, dine in or take out at the Isaac's in Wyomissing.

Isaac's will contribute 25% to our CROP Hunger Walk! (Coupons are needed and can be found on the WBMD website.) All walk materials will be available for pick-up that evening at Isaac's as well.

SEE YOU THERE!

Family Promise[®]

of Berks County

Taste of Hope Gala !

Wednesday, September 21 at 5:00 PM
at the Crown Plaza in Wyomissing

Our Goal is to raise \$50,000 which will help purchase a new van which is desperately needed to transport the guest families!

This year will feature a fall-themed, sit-down dinner specially prepared by the Crown Plaza Staff.

We will hear from former guests of Family Promise who will share their experiences and their thanks to the Family Promise program for providing help during their time of need.

Live Auction! Silent Auction! Basket Raffle!
Proceeds benefit **Family Promise of Berks County!**

Tickets \$50.00/person or \$450 for a table of 10 people
For tickets call WBMD 610-375-8303

Fall Assembly Event – Reserve the date now – November 3, 2016 at Advent Lutheran Church

Come for a night of food and fellowship and to learn more about two Lutheran ministries happening here in WBMD. Hope's Table is a free community meal and worship service held weekly at Hope Lutheran in Reading and Common Ground Recovery Ministry which now meeting at two locations – Atonement and Trinity Reading! We will begin the evening at 6:30 pm with a "dinner" of heavy appetizers, followed by presentations regarding these special ministries. We are asking congregations to take special offerings to help support these ministries prior to the Assembly. The only "Order of Business" for the evening will be to review/adopt the 2017 WBMD budget. Please plan now to attend!

Join us for

West Berks “TABLE TALK”

Remember when the WBMD used to have the “School of Religion”? Folks would gather together to learn more about their faith and share in conversation and fellowship. Well, we would like to offer something similar this fall. Come join other area Lutherans for this special educational event!

**Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 PM
at the McGlinn Conference Center**

(next to Alvernia University’s campus)

Our guest speaker will be Audrey West.

Dr. West is a New Testament scholar with an MDiv from Yale Divinity School and a PhD from Duke University. She was a professor and dean at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for nearly a decade. She currently lives in Pennsylvania where she is a consultant and writer.

Dr. West is excited to join us for the inaugural session of Table Talk. She will be leading us in a discussion called *Matthew 101*. This is a chance to look at the first Gospel in the New Testament with new eyes just in time for the upcoming Year of Matthew (2016 - 2017). This is a class designed for Christians at all levels of understanding and experience.

On October 26, we will have a follow-up gathering at one of our WBMD congregations to share a meal and continue our conversations. Watch for more information coming soon!

WBMD Calendar of Events

- Aug. 23 WBMD Council at Allegheny 7 pm
- Sept. 15 Isaac’s fundraiser for CROP Walk
- Sept. 21 Family Promise “Taste of Hope” event
- Oct. 9 CROP Hunger Walk at Gring’s Mill
- Oct. 12 Table Talk at McGlinn Conf Center
- Oct. 25 WBMD Council at Advent 7 pm
- Oct. 26 Table Talk follow-up
- Nov. 3 WBMD Fall Assembly Event at Advent

- Feb. 17-18, 2017 WBMD Annual Youth Event

SUMMER 2016 - MINISTRY REPORT

A group of 37 young people attended Bear Creek Day Camp in July. Thanks to Tracey Ormsbee and Allegheny Lutheran for hosting – and to our awesome lunch ladies! The kids met new friends, learned Bible verses, played games, enjoyed a water day, a dress-up day, a talent show, and a closing program on Friday to showcase what they had learned. Everyone had fun!

One Wonderful West Berks Wednesday!!

We decided to only hold one WB Wednesday and opened it up to families. Held on July 27th, the day included a nature walk and ecology lesson with the French Creek naturalist and Sally Sassaman, an interactive Bible story, games, & crafts (thanks Tracey Ormsbee and Heather Bruno) lunch (thanks Bill Baxter) and then swimming all afternoon! The 46 people who attended had a wonderful day!!!

WBMD MUSIC CAMP!!! **One World... One Home...** **In Perfect Harmony!**



Our 2016 Music Camp was a blast! We had 32 children participate this year. They learned music and motions, they sang and clapped and danced to the music. They drummed and made rain-sticks. They created flags from many countries. And what a performance – the show on Friday was great! Everyone enjoyed the music and the ice cream!

Special thanks to everyone who shared their gifts to help make this year’s camp possible. We especially owe thanks to: Pastor Julie Osterhout and Mr. Scott Schaeffer for planning the music & putting together the program and then teaching it to all the kids; Deaconess Deborah Graf and Pastor Rebecca Knox for leading games and fun; Pastor Katie Lyon and the folks from Christ Glenside who served as our hosts for the week; our craft leaders; our great lunch ladies; and our terrific junior counselors! And thanks to all the kids who came and sang their hearts out!