

✧ WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT ✧

Newsletter – October 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.

WBMD Director – Dawn Baxter

Dawn@westberksmissiondistrict.org

Office Staff/ Bookkeeper - Jane McClellan Renner

Jane@westberksmissiondistrict.org

Office Phone – 610-375-8303

Fax – 610-375-6445

Website: www.westberksmissiondistrict.org

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 Grings Mill.**

Registration begins at 12:30 PM

Walk starts at 1:30 PM

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

Walk at your own pace

Organize a team, assign someone to be your congregations' coordinator and get a group of folks to walk. All ages are welcome. All walkers are asked to collect money from sponsors and bring it to the event. Walkers collecting \$100 or more will receive a free event t-shirt.

75% of the money raised goes to Church World Service's mission to feed hungry people around the world by helping them develop sustainable methods of growing crops and raising livestock.

25% goes to Greater Berks Food Bank to provide food locally for those in need.

WBMD Fall Assembly Event – Thursday, November 3, 2016

6:30 -8:30 PM Hosted by

Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn

Come for a night of food and fellowship and to learn more about two new Lutheran ministries happening here in WBMD.

Hope's Table is a community outreach ministry that includes a free meal and a brief worship service each Tuesday evening at Hope Lutheran in Reading. We will hear ways in which the community that gathers here are being fed both physically and spiritually and learn of ways we can be involved.

Common Ground Recovery Ministry which now meets at two locations – Atonement and Trinity Reading - offers hope and healing through a service that combines worship and the tenets of the 12-step program for all who are broken. (And who isn't?)

We will begin the evening at 6:30 pm with a "dinner" of heavy appetizers provided by Thrivent, followed by presentations about these special ministries. **We are asking congregations to take special offerings to help support these ministries prior to the Assembly.** We will gather the offerings that night.

Representatives from Thrivent will be there to share information on how to apply for Action Team funding to help support your congregation's ministries.

The only "Order of Business" for the evening will be to review/adopt the 2017 WBMD budget.

Check out these new events being offered in October ...



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 our first **TableTalk** event!

Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 PM
at the McGlenn Conference Center
(next to Alvernia University’s campus)

Our guest speaker - Dr. Audrey West

Dr. West is excited to join us for the inaugural session of **TableTalk**. 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. Please bring your Bible!

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.

On **October 26**, we will have a follow-up gathering from 6:30-8:00 PM at Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn to share a light meal and continue our **TableTalk** conversations. A free-will offering will be collected.

Please join us at both the October 12th and 26th TableTalk events!



Rostered Leader Event!

**Meet Dr. Audrey West
at 201 West!**

Wed. October 12 at 3:30 pm

201 West is a restaurant located at 201 W. Lancaster Avenue in Shillington. Rostered leaders are invited to an in-depth text study with Dr. West in preparation for the upcoming “Year of Matthew”. At 5:00 pm, the group will enjoy dinner and be finished by 6:30 pm so that folks can move on to the McGlenn Conference Center (next to Alvernia’s campus) for **TableTalk**.

Registration and menu selection is requested by October 7. You can register by calling the WBMD office at 610-375-8303, or emailing dawn@westberksmissiondistrict.org

A flyer that included the menu options was emailed to all rostered leaders and can also be found on our website.

WBMD Calendar of Events

- Oct. 9 CROP Hunger Walk at Gring’s Mill
- Oct. 12 Rostered Leaders at 201 West 3:30 pm
- Oct. 12 **TableTalk** McGlenn Conf. Center 7 pm
- Oct. 25 WBMD Council at Advent 7 pm
- Oct. 26 **TableTalk** follow-up at Advent 6:30 pm
- Nov. 3 WBMD Fall Assembly Event at Advent

Mark your calendars now for these 2017 events!

- Jan. 24 WBMD Council
- Feb. 17-18 WBMD Annual Youth Event
- March 12 Bowl-a-thon at Berks Lanes