

# ✧ WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT ✧

Newsletter – April 2009

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 Spring Assembly Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Robeson Lutheran Church Registration at 6:30; Meeting begins at 7:00**

### **“Exploring God’s Work Among Us”**

A good portion of this assembly will be spent working through the Mission District phase of our Synod’s emphasis to try and help congregations engage in ministry renewal. Congregations are being asked to do some preparatory work in their Councils and worship communities to determine what God is doing in our neighborhoods. Results will be shared in the larger context of Mission District Assemblies and then those findings will be gathered and the process will continue at the Synod Assembly scheduled for June 5-6 at the Sovereign Performing Arts Center in Reading.

Because this effort is meant to engage as many people as possible, ALL Council Members of ALL WBMD congregations are encouraged to attend our Spring Assembly! We anticipate this will be an exciting gathering as the Spirit will be present among us as we work to discover our purpose in God’s mission. God is on the loose and is at work all around us! As we pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”, let’s also ask, what part can we play in bringing God’s kingdom near?

## **WBMD Youth Event with Captive Free a great success!**

WOW!!! What a great event! February 20-21 we had about 180 youth and adults from 20 congregations participate in our Youth Event with Captive Free. The folks from Trinity Lutheran Church in beautiful downtown Reading, were our gracious hosts and shared their historic facility with us. Deaconess Deborah Graf was in charge of this event and we greatly appreciate ALL the work she did to make this such a great time for everyone. The youth enjoyed an evening of fun and games at the YMCA on Friday. Saturday we all enjoyed a walk to the new IMAX theater to see a movie and then we explored the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts. After returning to Trinity, Pastor Mary Wolfe and her daughter, Hanna shared pictures and stories from their trip to our companion synod in Tanzania, Africa last summer. The youth then packed more than 200 school-kits that will go to Tanzania the next time our synod sends a shipping container filled with supplies. Thanks to the many volunteers, from several congregations, who sewed the bags we packed! Adults and youth then enjoyed a traditional African meal of rice, chicken, and “red stuff surprise” and the event ended with a concert by Captive Free. Thanks to all who helped to make this event possible!

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**SPECIAL NOTE-** The youth all enjoyed the IMAX experience so much, that we are trying to schedule a WBMD family event soon. We are hoping to schedule a special showing on a Saturday morning to see a film that was previewed the day we were there. Arrangements are still being made so watch your congregational bulletins for details coming soon!

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**WBMD is hosting the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly!**

Planning is currently underway for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Synod Assembly which will be held at the Sovereign Performing Arts Center in Reading on Friday and Saturday, June 5 – 6, 2009. The theme of this year's assembly will be *"Exploring God's Work Among Us"*.

**Could you help...**

- by volunteering for the planning team or the hospitality team?
- by providing Bed & Breakfast accommodations in your home?
- by offering your van and a driver for shuttle service between parking lots and SPAC?
- serve as a tour guide for walking or van tours of Reading churches, the Pagoda, the GoggleWorks?

*We are excited to welcome folks from the synod back to Reading!*

*Please call the WBMD if you can help in any way.*

**Are you looking for a unique and meaningful summer work experience?**

We are looking for a Music Leader for our WBMD Summer Day Camp. Responsibilities would include...

- Provide music leadership, teach camp songs and work in cooperation with Bear Creek Camp counselors.
- Work with children ages 7-11 from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- 5 weeks of a Christian faith-based camp at sites located in and around Reading.
- Monday - Friday, 8:30 - 3:30, 35 hours per week, paid position.
- Must be age 18 years or older.
- Must have good teaching skills and should play an instrument, preferably guitar or keyboard.

*Call the West Berks Mission District at 610-375-8303 for more information*

**Installation Service for**

**Rev. Rebecca Knox & Rev. Bruce Osterhout  
Tuesday, April 21, 2009 from 3-8 PM**

Celebrate with the Pastors and congregations of the newly formed St. Luke's – Christ Partnership Parish at this unique installation service. Call St. Luke's at 610-375-9216 for more information.

**Interested in becoming a church musician?**

Organ lessons and general church musician training. A solid piano background is required.

Contact Teresa Kissling at [tkissling@stjohnss.org](mailto:tkissling@stjohnss.org) or 610-670-7241, 610-678-1088

**WBMD Calendar of Events**

April 1 – Lenten Prayer Breakfast  
April 15 – West Berks WELCA Cluster  
April 22 – Office Professionals Luncheon  
April 29 – Rostered Leaders Meeting at Faith  
**April 30 – WBMD Spring Assembly**  
May 16 – "Great Giveaway" at Holy Spirit  
May 21 – WBMD Ascension Day Service  
June 5-6 – Synod Assembly at  
Sovereign Performing Arts Center  
June 13 – LIFT Event

**Spring meeting of the West Berks  
WELCA Cluster**

Wednesday, April 15, 2009  
Bern Lutheran Church in Leesport 610-374-4343  
6:15 Registration; 7:00 Meeting

Program: "Feet – How Firm Is Your Foundation/Our Journey to Health and Wellness"

Please bring a food or monetary donation to support the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry.