

❖ **WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT** ❖  
**Newsletter - December 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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Now on the web at [www.WestBerksMissionDistrict.org](http://www.WestBerksMissionDistrict.org)

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### **WBMD Fall Assembly Report**

Our Fall Assembly, held on November 12<sup>th</sup> at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, was attended by approximately 66 people representing 34 congregations. Voting delegates and rostered leaders were encouraged to attend this event.

The events of the evening began with music provided by Schwarzwald's Bell Choir followed by worship and communion given by Pr. John and Amy Miller. Rev. Greg Stoddard, Director of Chaplaincy Services, Reading Hospital & Medical Center, kicked off the assembly by sharing experiences and thoughts from the recently completed Tanzania mission trip that his wife, Terri, and Pr. Steve Claycomb, Reformation, played an important part.

Mark Hammond, Synod Liaison, then spoke about the four areas of our Synod's Visioning process (**Communications, Training, Resources, Inspiration & Support**). Mark reminded us of the four synodical Mission Teams (**Worship & Spirituality, Witness & Service, Connection Building, Leadership Development**) and the need to share the goal of having contacts within each mission district who will be able to inform or refer those who need synod resources/information regarding the areas of vision/mission. The assembly then broke into groups of 3 to share with each other and document the ministries that are happening at their respective churches. Thank you to all who participated in this exercise; we hope you found it meaningful.

In an effort to help congregations witness, the assembly approved the purchase of ELCA banners for all WBMD churches. The banners, intended for outdoor use, will make a statement in our neighborhoods and perhaps, increase visibility in our communities.

Special thanks to the good people of Schwarzwald Lutheran for sharing their fantastic facility and refreshments with us!

### **BOWL-A-THON raises \$800.00 for SUMMER DAY CAMP!**

Thanks to all who participated in the Bowl-a-thon on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Bowl-o-rama. A day of bowling and fun raised money for a great cause. It was nice to see the inter-generational involvement in this activity; folks of all ages enjoyed the day. Special thanks to Jackie Grauel and tyna Kaltenbaugh for organizing this event and to Thrivent Southwest Berks Branch for supplementing the donations. Please note: We are considering making the Bowl-a-thon a spring event next year rather than having it follow so closely after the Crop Walk which seems to affect our participation and total money we are able to raise.

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PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!!!!

### **WBMD YOUTH EVENT with CAPTIVE FREE coming in FEBRUARY!**

Save the dates – Friday -Saturday, February 19 - 20 at Grace Lutheran Church, Shillington.  
Information and Registration forms have been emailed to each congregation or check our web site!

## ✧ West Berks Mission District ✧

### THANKSGIVING TURKEYS!

Thanks to your support, the West Berks Mission District was again able to provide turkeys for our pastors to distribute to families in need in their faith communities.

Thanks to Southwest Berks Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a Helping Hands grant that helped with expenses.

### 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 a blessing to someone who has very little - a very meaningful gift indeed. Please consider making a gift to:

- ✦ Family Promise of Berks County
- ✦ The Lutheran Pantry
- ✦ "Love for Children" Summer Day Camp
- ✦ Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Gifts to these ministries will stay in Berks County to help the local community.

With a more global perspective, you might wish to consider checking into the ELCA's Good Gifts opportunities at [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://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.

### Retired Leaders and Spouses/Widows Group ...

Just a reminder - the retired leaders group meets for breakfast at 9:00 the **first Thursday of each month** at Heidelberg Restaurant, Rte 422 in Robesonia. All are welcome and no reservations are required. Come join us December 3<sup>rd</sup> for this time of special fellowship.

*and please come for a special*



## Christmas Luncheon

**Thursday, December 10th**  
**1:00 PM at**

### **The Inn at Moselem Springs**

*Routes 222 & 662*

Each person pays for his or her own meal.  
No program - just good food, good company,  
and good conversation!  
No reservations needed, just join us if you can!

All are invited to attend a  
**Mission Fair at**  
**Robeson Lutheran Church, Plowville**  
**Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**6:00 -- 8:00pm**

**International Meal**  
Prepared by Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech  
\$7.00 Adults  
\$4.00 Children

**Speaker: Mark Lauer – Camp Noah experience**

**Mission Exhibitors:**  
**On Eagles Wings - Arctic Ministry**  
**Dr. Richard Reddy - Mission to Jamaica**  
**Stephen Deysher – Mission Trip to Tanzania**  
**Lutheran Congregational Services**  
**Western Berks Free Medical Clinic, Inc.**  
**Rev. Jean Beadle – Ministry to the Deaf**

### Special Invitations...

**December 6 - The Marini Harp Ministry -3 PM**  
Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale – Enjoy hearing carols on the harps by the Marini children and a Gospel message by Alex Marini, harp maker. A reception will follow the program.

**December 12 – A Night in Bethlehem – 4-6 PM**  
Bethany Lutheran Church, West Reading - A unique and special hands-on experience that brings the Christmas story to life.

**December 13 - Drive-thru Nativity - 5:30-8 PM**  
Allegheny Lutheran Church, Knauers - See the Christmas Story unfold as you drive from scene to scene.

### **WBMD Calendar of Events**



December 3 – Retired Leaders Group breakfast  
December 10 – Retired Leaders Group holiday lunch

#### **2010 Events-**

February 19-20 – Annual Youth Event with Captive Free at Grace, Shillington  
April 26 – West Berks WELCA Cluster  
April 29 – WBMD Spring Assembly, Trinity, Rdg.