

✧ WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT ✧

Newsletter - July 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.

Director – Dawn Baxter Mission Associate – Dick Kleinsmith Bookkeeper – Susan Rigby-Moore

Phone – 610-375-8303 Fax – 610-375-6445 E-mail – info@westberksmissiondistrict.org

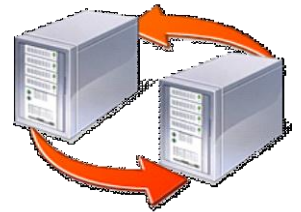
Now on the web at www.westberksmissiondistrict.org



West Berks Mission District Now on the Web!!!

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www.WestBerksMissionDistrict.org



We are very excited to announce that on June 1, WBMD rolled out a new and comprehensive web site. The web site contains information regarding the mission and history of WBMD as well as FAQ's (frequently asked questions), contact information and a calendar. Most importantly, a resource section is included that contains newsletters, registration forms and flyers for different events and programs, informative links to other organizations and a directory of all 45 churches in WBMD.

The church directory profiles each church including a picture, address, telephone number, email address, a list of rostered leaders and a web site, if available. Additionally, a section titled "***In the News***" will contain timely information and links.

In May, church leaders were given the opportunity to review the web site and provide feedback. As a result, there is a list of enhancements that you will see in the near future. Please take the time to check out the web site and contact your church or WBMD with suggestions for improvement.

WBMD Spring Assembly Update

As part of our work at the Spring Assembly, folks gathered in groups of three, each from a different congregation, and shared their council's "Love Letters". The triads were then asked to finish this sentence: "***God's purpose for the church is...***"

As a result of this exercise, 53 responses were received and analyzed to determine the action verbs associated with each response. Not surprisingly, "love" was the overwhelming response. "Sharing His love" and "loving each other" appeared in many responses. "To unite" and "to witness" followed closely with many indicating a need to bring the body of Christ together to accomplish His work. In reality, all responses were thoughtful and inspiring with all providing excellent completions to the statement, "***God's purpose for the church is...***"

One response, however, seemed to stand out from the others: "***to be Jesus' body, spreading the good news and continuing his work***". A great mission statement for each of us to follow.

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OPERATION BOOK-BAG 2009

It's time again to begin collecting school supplies for children whose families cannot afford to buy them. Many churches collect supplies during Bible School or other summer events. Last year, nearly 600 filled book-bags were delivered to the Reading schools! This ministry is a blessing to the students, their families, and the school staff. Your continued help with this project is greatly appreciated! These are the items requested:

Elementary -

Crayons, erasers, primer tablets, rulers, pencils, glue sticks, construction paper, safety scissors, pencil box or bag, small packs of tissues, back-pack/book-bag

Middle School -

3 or 5 subject notebooks, notebook paper, colored pencils, highlighters, tissues, calculators, erasers, pencils, pens (blue or black), back-pack/book-bag

Monetary donations are also appreciated. Make checks payable to: West Berks Mission District
– **Memo: Operation Book-bag**

All items should be brought to the WBMD office by August 14th. Please refer questions to Dick at WBMD at 610-375-8303 or via email at Dick@WestBerksMissionDistrict.org.

► **Volunteers needed** ◀

We will be needing volunteers to help set up assembly lines and fill the bags on August 18, 19 and 20. Please call if you have a group that could help!

As always...

Thank You for your support!

Some special events...

**June 28, July 26th, – Sunday “Summer Concert Series”
Aug. 30 & Sept. 27**

3:00 - 4:30 PM at the Lutheran Home at Topton
Concerts take place off the Old Main parking area.
For more information, please call (610) 682-1400.

July 18 – Re-Creation will present “His Call”

6:00 PM at Bethany, West Reading
Free will offering. Refreshments following the program.
For information call – 610-375-7163

Positions available –

Organist / Choir Director needed at Bethany, Stony Creek, by September 1st. Call 610-698-0311 for more information.

**WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT
2009 summertime**

Outdoor Worship Opportunity

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 PM

Bern Lutheran Church, Leesport

Rain or Shine!

Worship will be indoors if bad weather is predicted.
Offerings will be designated for
WBMD “Love for Children” Day Camp Scholarships

Lawn chairs are essential

June 24: Rev. Steve Belinski - Grace, Reading

July 1: Rev. Wayne Heintzelman, St. Daniel,
Robesonia

July 8: Rev. Carl Filer – Grace, Shillington

July 15: Rev. David Roper – Bern, Leesport

July 22: Rev. Scott Stevenson – Altalaha,
Rehlersburg

July 29: Rev. Lee Diefenderfer – Trinity,
Wernersville
Sunday School Orchestra

Aug. 5: Rev. David Kistler, ARC of Berks &
Choir

Aug. 12: Rev. Abera Hellemo – Bethany,
West Reading

Aug. 19: Rev. Harold Bohn – St. John, Sinking
Spring

All invited!

*Come sing to the Lord a new song &
enjoy God’s wonderful creation!*

WBMD Calendar of Events



August 25 – WBMD Council at Reformation

September 22 – Family Promise Annual Event

November 1 – WBMD Bowl-a-Thon for Day
Camp

November 12 – WBMD Fall Assembly at
Schwarzwald