

✧ WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT ✧

Newsletter – February 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

West Berks Mission District Annual Youth Event for Youth in Grades 7 – 12 Featuring

CAPTIVE FREE NORTHEAST !

Friday, February 20th starting at 6:00 PM through
Saturday, February 21st following the 7:00 PM Concert

HOSTED BY

Trinity Lutheran Church

527 Washington Street Reading PA 19601

Come join us for

**High Energy Worship ☺ Lots of Music ☺ IMAX Movie ☺ Games & Food
Trip to GoggleWorks ☺ Service Project for Tanzania ☺ Lots of Fun!**

ALL ARE WELCOME to the CAPTIVE FREE Concert at 7:00 PM Saturday

Free-will offering will be taken to support the ministries of CAPTIVE FREE.

This year's event should really be awesome as we take advantage of some of the new entertainment venues in Reading and get a first-hand report from some youth who were part of the NEPS trip to Tanzania last summer! And of course, there's Captive Free! Hope your youth will be able to be part of this activity! Cost will be \$30 for Friday night and Saturday, \$25 for Saturday only.

Registration information has been e-mailed to the churches.

Please check with your pastors or youth advisors if you would like to participate!

WBMD Calendar of Events

February 14 – Pantry Coordinators Meeting

February 20-21 – Annual Youth Event

March 24 – WBMD Council Meeting

March 27-28 – 30-Hour Famine

April 1 – Lenten Prayer Breakfast

April 30 – WBMD Spring Assembly

May 21 – WBMD Ascension Day Service

June 5-6 – Synod Assembly

June 13 – LIFT Event

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Annual Lenten Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 8:00 AM

At the Highlands of Wyomissing

2000 Cambridge Avenue

Wyomissing PA 19610

Cost—\$9.00

Please join us for an inspirational morning as we prepare to enter into Holy Week.

Watch for information regarding our guest speaker!

Everyone is invited! We hope you'll join us!

Deadline for Registration is March 25th

Please complete and mail with remittance.

Reservation Form

2009 Lenten Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Name _____

Congregation _____

Number attending breakfast _____

Amount enclosed/ \$9.00 per person _____

Make checks payable to WBMD and mail to:

West Berks Mission District

1015 Windsor Street

Reading PA 19604

Deadline for Registration is March 25th

LUTHERAN PANTRY REPORT

For the year 2008, our eight Lutheran Pantries together served an average of 772 households per month. This included 2,004 families who received food from a pantry for the first time. In 2007, an average of 613 households per month was served including 1,510 new families. Pantry statistics for 2008 can be seen in the chart below.

Pantry	Total Households	New Households	Children	Adults	Elderly	Total
WBMD Lutheran Pantry (Emergency food boxes)	335	143	248	419	73	740
St. Paul's, Reading	1,331	174	1,725	2,144	344	4,213
Incarnation, Reading	560	128	915	801	194	1,910
Bethany, West Reading	1,373	241	2,982	2,725	308	6,015
Hope, Reading	2,337	298	6,021	4,921	314	11,256
Christ, Glenside	839	119	1,239	1,233	145	2,617
St. John's, Reading (opened in Oct. '08)	104	83	184	163	34	381
St. Luke's, Reading	2,387	818	4,794	4,279	314	9,387
Totals	9,266	2,004	18,108	16,685	1,726	36,519

The WBMD offers financial support to the pantries operating at the Lutheran Churches listed above. In addition to these pantries, WBMD congregations are also involved with the Conrad Weiser Food Pantry (hosted by Trinity, Robesonia), the Governor Mifflin Area Food Ministry, and two new pantries that recently opened to serve the West Lawn and Muhlenberg areas.

The WBMD will host a Pantry Coordinator's meeting at 9:30 AM on Saturday, February 14th at Bern Lutheran Church in Leesport. We encourage each Pantry to send a representative so that we can share ideas and best practices and help support one another.

Your continued support of these food ministries is greatly appreciated. We encourage your congregations to continue to do Food Drives and participate in Souper Bowl Sunday on February 1st! Please keep in mind that food can be delivered to any of the sites listed above and any money collected can be sent to the WBMD office to help feed our local neighbors in need.

Thank you for serving the "least of these." *I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat... Matthew 25:35*