

✧ **WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT** ✧
Newsletter – August 2010

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

WBMD Gala

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wyomissing

Registration and Appetizers at 6:00 PM

Dinner at 6:30 PM

Cost per person - \$30.00

Talk to others from your congregation and get a group together for the evening. We will be seated at tables of 8. Reservation information is available at <http://www.westberksmissiondistrict.org/events.html> or by contacting your church office or WBMD at 610-375-8303. Please plan to join us for a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship. **The deadline for reservations is September 21, 2010.**

OPERATION BOOK-BAG 2010

A new school year is right around the corner and our Operation Book-Bag deadline is fast approaching. Please bring your backpacks and school supplies to the WBMD office by **Friday, August 13th**! Please call the office before coming to be sure someone will be here to receive your donations.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

August 17 - to sort supplies and set up Assembly Lines
August 18 & 19 – to pack the backpacks with supplies

This is a great activity for youth groups, grandparent & grandchildren. ANYONE can help! Please call to let us know when you are available to help!

Drinks & snacks will be provided!

Family Promise Fundraising Event...

Tuesday, September 21st 5 PM to 8 PM –

The 3rd Annual “Taste of Hope” at VF Outlet.

Individual and business sponsors are still needed.

Contact Family Promise 610-373-3323 for more info.

“Help for Haiti” Update

To The West Berks Mission District;

Thanks in part to your donations, a tractor-trailer left Fleetwood in mid-June carrying a ton of peanut butter, ten tons of rice and over 200 walkers, 200 crutches, 25 wheelchairs, and assorted school supplies. The donations were trucked to Miami and then shipped to Cap Haitien, Haiti, for distribution. A smaller shipment of desks, chairs, file cabinets and other supplies will be sent later this summer to Port au Prince for use at a new clinic started by The Lazarus Project/Village of Hope.

It is amazing to me how many individuals and organizations participated in this effort. Without your help, it could not have happened. God bless you and thanks again.

The Rev. Cheryl F. Meinschein

Note: Pastor Meinschein was the guest speaker at our WBMD Lenten Prayer Breakfast.

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WBMD “Love for Children” Day Camp



This year’s theme is **“Be courageous and bold!”**

Day Camps are in session and everyone involved is having a fabulous experience.

Thank You from Lutheran World Relief

On June 23rd a bus trip organized by the Senior Berners, **21** people visited the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in New Windsor Maryland. The group toured the facility and learned about the entire operation.

They took with them donations from many congregations in our Synod including seven congregations in the WBMD.

In total they delivered: 284 quilts, 697 health kits, 19 sewing kits, 3 school kits, 100 baby layettes and 118 bars of soap!

Thank you all for your donations of time, talents and resources!

A Word of Gratitude!

I am writing in reference to your yearly book-bag and school supplies distribution. I would like you to know how much we appreciate these donations. Many students come to school without any supplies and often times not even a pencil. If you could only see how their faces light up when they receive supplies. Many economically disadvantaged and new families to this area can not afford uniforms let alone school supplies. Your kindness has even provided for some needy college students.

Thanks again for your many years of service to our school.

Minerva Cruz, MSW
Northeast Middle School Principal

In 2009, 526 backpacks containing an assortment of school supplies were delivered to the Reading elementary and middle schools.

Outdoor Worship Opportunity Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 PM at Bern Lutheran Church

820 W Leesport Road, Leesport (just off Route 183)

Is it hard for you to get to worship on Sunday’s during the summer? Come try this informal service led by a different WBMD pastor each week. All are welcome!

Aug. 4: Rev. David Kistler - ARC of Berks & Festival of Faith Choir

Aug. 11: Rev. Jason Lee - Atonement, Wyomissing

Aug. 18: Rev. Rebecca Knox – Christ-St. Luke’s Partnership Parish, Reading

Aug. 25: Rev. Michael Reist – Bethany, Stony Creek

Offerings will be designated for
WBMD “Love for Children” Day Camp Scholarships

Lawn chairs are essential!

PLEASE NOTE: Service will be indoors in the event of bad weather or extreme heat.

Fall Meeting of the West Berks Cluster Women of the ELCA

Saturday, September 11, 2010

Nativity Lutheran Church in Reading 610-374-3230

8:30 AM Registration; 9:00 AM Meeting

Program: “Awareness of Human Trafficking” with
Sister Jean Jacobchik

All women are invited to attend!

Please bring a jar of peanut butter to support the
Lutheran Pantry at St. Luke’s, Reading.

WBMD Calendar of Events

August 13 – Deadline for school supplies

August 17-19 Operation Book-bag assembly

August 24 – WBMD Council at Grace, Reading

Sept. 11 – West Berks WELCA Cluster

Sept. 21 – Family Promise “Taste of Hope” event

October 5 – WBMD Gala at Crowne Plaza

November 18 – WBMD Fall Assembly