



WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT



P.O. Box 104 Reading, PA 19603

Winter 2024

WBMD Coordinator: Deaconess Deborah Graf
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Youth Table Leader: Kristen Kelly
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Executive Committee: President: Mr. Ramon Marquez
Secretary: Rev. Julie Osterhout

Dean: Rev. Colleen Cox
Treasurer: Rev. Drew Neidig

A ministry of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Witnessing Boldly. Making a Difference.

Dear WBMD congregations and leaders!

It has been almost a year since I have been serving as the coordinator for our mission district. It is my joy and privilege to be working with faithful leaders around our county. As the council continues to lead our collaborative ministry, I continue to figure out what this part-time coordinator role looks like (as opposed to a director who worked many more hours.)

The year was not without challenges. We continue to work with a forensic accountant to figure out what happened to our mail (and mission support checks) in the late spring/early summer time. Since we no longer have an office at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Windsor Street, we opened up a P.O. Box for our mail. **If you have not yet made the address change for all of your communications, please do so today!**

The pantries at our Lutheran churches continue to serve so many people who are experiencing food insecurity. Your offerings support this work by helping cover monthly delivery costs from Helping Harvest. We also provide leadership for the Reading/Berks CROP Hunger Walk and support the work of the Greater Reading Immigration Project (GRIP) and Family Promise.

Our youth have had opportunities to learn and serve together thanks to Kristen Kelly, our Youth Table Leader. There are 28 youth and adults from 5 congregations who are learning and traveling together to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. We are again offering an overnight retreat: Act2Day 4Tomorrow where youth and chaperones will fast and learn about global and local hunger issues. We also are invited to join in a Coldest Night of the Year walk. And be on the lookout for information about a local summer mini-mission trip.

The Rostered Leaders have been meeting more often for fellowship, education about ELCA coaching, and ministry support. Pastor Jen Dee from Trinity, Robesonia has agreed to serve as the Collegiality Table Leader. And we are offering a Tuesday evening Lenten Study that will include a service of Compline! (info to come.)

God continues to bless our ministry. We are indeed Stronger Together!

Sharing Christ's Service,
Deaconess Deborah Graf

**Act2Day 4Tomorrow
WBMD Youth Retreat
Saturday – Sunday, 2/17-18
@ Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading**



“They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.” Acts 2:42

Registration details have been sent to all church offices. Ask your youth leader, pastor, or deacon for info.

[Act2Day 4Tomorrow Registration](#)

**Coldest Night of The Year – Family Friendly Walk
Saturday, February 24 @ Penn State Berks**

Join Our Team!

coldest night
OF THE YEAR

WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT

February 24th, 2024

Walk a 2.5k or 5k with us to raise money for New Journey Community Outreach so they can continue serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in the Reading Community.

Join and Donate to our team at walk.w-ith.us/WBMD

Some give by walking. Some walk by giving.
We are Stronger Together!

It's cold out there! On 2/24 people from the West Berks Mission District are invited to participate in a winterrific family-friendly walk at Penn State Berks Campus to raise money for New Journey Community Outreach so we can continue serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in the Reading Community.

Registration is open at 4:00 p.m. The walk begins at 5:00 p.m. We will be walking with people of all ages from faith communities and civic organizations from all across Berks County.

Please, register as a walker for our WBMD team and/or give generously at: walk.w-ith.us/WBMD

More information can be found at: [Coldest Night Reading](#)

2024 WBMD Dates (more information forthcoming)

January 23: WBMD Budget Meeting via Zoom at 7 p.m.

February 17-18: Act2Day 4Tomorrow youth overnight @ Trinity, Reading

April 17: GRIP (Greater Reading Immigration Project) Policy Information Sessions (times and locations tbd)

May 2: WBMD Spring Assembly 7 p.m.

May 4: GRIP Run for Dreamers @Schlegel Park

June 8: NEPA Synod Assembly

For Rostered/Synodical Leaders

February 1: West Berks Rostered Breakfast Group @ Heidelberg Restaurant 9:00 a.m.

February 22: Rostered Leader Gathering @ Trinity, Reading 11:30 a.m.

Community Invitations

February 25: Coldest Night of the Year Walk @ Penn State Berks