



# WITTENBERG

## LUTHERAN CENTER

# THE BULLETIN BERG:

## OCTOBER

## 2024 EDITION

### FROM *the* PASTOR

I've heard it said that adulting doesn't come with an instruction manual or playbook. I disagree. God's Word in Scripture tracks the nurture and up-bringing of several faithful children...

There's Samuel who learned how to listen to God from an early age. Samuel anointed David the shepherd boy who became King and a man after God's own heart. Then there's the boy Daniel who stood up for his faith. He too became a great prophet. Mary was just a girl when she trusted God's plan that included her direct involvement! Timothy was very young when he was taught the faith. He became one of the first missionaries in the early Church.

Some faithful children in the Bible aren't known beyond a simple act. Think of the little boy who volunteered his loaves and fishes for a miraculous meal. Or the little girl who coaxed Naaman to simply walk into the water to be cleansed of leprosy. We don't know their names, or what became of these young believers, but we can see the power their youthful faith held.

Beyond Scripture, there might not be a textbook for raising a faithful child. But a child's model for adulting also comes from observation. Godly parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all provide examples by which we acquire an excellent education toward adulting. Children see and learn from the adults around them in prayer and living out their confidence in Christ their Savior.

Experience provides another teacher. Advance-placement adulting comes at various times while still under parental supervision. AP adulting includes being an older sibling ourselves, becoming an aunt or uncle, getting a driver's license, and working those summer jobs. Along the way, we're strengthened by the on-going instruction given by hearing God's Word proclaimed to us.

Bachelor's level adulting begins when you are truly on your own for the first time. The family ties may still be there, but you're navigating life without the direct support you once had. It's here that a foundation of Christ and His Word is essential. When we stumble, when things are harder than we imagined them to be, our safety net is in the sure promises given in Christ Jesus.

Master's level adulting comes with being a parent and raising infants, adolescents, and teens. Without the Word to guide us, none would be capable of such a duty. And a Doctorate of adulthood comes with matters of life and death. It's here that we come full-circle, and with child-like faith give our Lord the honor of leading us through the Valley.

So God indeed provides written instruction for the process of becoming an adult! You hear it in Church, and you get to partake in it personally, whether it's in Bible study or personal devotions and a daily pattern of Bible reading. Please take full advantage of God's primary means of grace!

*One last note: As we approach another general election, we thank God that we get to participate in representative form of government and contribute to the common good. God has given us opportunity to serve our neighbors, share life together, and advocate for righteousness. What a gracious privilege and responsibility! Prayerfully exercise them in the coming weeks. Peace!*

## Advisor Spotlight: Debbie and Robert

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We have a new Registered Student Organization advisor! Special thanks to Debbie Folks-Huber for working with the RSO for over two years before passing off the reigns to Robert Oakley. Your dedication to the Church and Wittenberg does not go unnoticed, Debbie! Thank you for being a hands on advisor, heavily involved in our students' lives at Illinois State and Wesleyan!



Robert Oakley, our new RSO advisor, is the manager of the Enterprise Application Administration team at Tech Solutions at Illinois State. He has worked at ISU for 16 years come January. He and his wife, Kimberly, have been married for 22 years. Together, they homeschool their 3 children ages 12, 14, and 17. They enjoy spending time together with their family dog named Graham.

Growing up Catholic, Robert became a Lutheran after he married his wife. It was very important for him to raise his kids in the Lutheran faith, he explained, and he is proud to share that all 3 of his kids are confirmed in the Lutheran Church. The family attends Trinity Lutheran Church in El Paso, Illinois.

When asked about his faith, Robert commented, "The most important thing about my faith is that it helps keep me grounded and provides comfort to me through the toughest of times in my life. I don't worry as much because I know Jesus loves me and watches over me and my family at all times". The Bible verse below is Robert's favorite Bible verse.

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

-Matthew 6:34

Robert has never been an advisor before, but is excited to see how he can play his part. He also coaches his youngest kids' sports teams and enjoys playing pickleball with his wife and disc golf with friends. Help us welcome Robert into our Wittenberg family and celebrate Debbie!



You can help aid in this leadership transition process by praying for Debbie and Robert! We give thanks to the Lord for good stewardship and our abilities to become leaders in Christ. Please keep the student officer team in your prayers as well as they all serve the student congregation together.



## Fellowship and Service Recap



### Game Night Mixer:

10 of our students and young adults competed head-to-head during our Game Night Mixer. The event was created to help welcome new students and break in Wittenberg's NEW game tables downstairs. The upgraded billiards table and foosball table were both hits among participants. As always, there's ping pong, air hockey, and board games galore! Thank you to those involved in purchasing the new game tables.



Sophomore General Computer Science major Kristin Kolbus commented:

*"It was a ton of fun getting to catch up with everyone and play Uno Flip with 9 people, which was as chaotic as you'd expect. I can't wait for next time!"*

# WITTENBERG

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### Cleaning up Campus:

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, Wittenberg continued to serve the community by picking up trash along South Main Street, the road Wittenberg sponsors through IDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program.

"It was so nice seeing everyone coming together to serve our community! My favorite thing we found was a Bible on the side of the road," junior nursing major Elyssa Kollmann shared.

## September 1<sup>st</sup> Baptisms

We rejoiced and welcomed Fred Lamb and Tylon Kondowe as being baptized on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. In the name of the Lord, our hearts are full to call you both our brothers in Christ!

*“My baptism at Wittenberg felt like acquiring a second birth certificate. I’d been interested in Christianity for a bit beforehand, but this made me part of God’s family.” -Tylon Kondowe, Sophomore Physics major*



Fred Lamb



Tylon Kondowe



## Milestones of Our Lutheran Heritage

Five-hundred years ago, in the spring of 1524, Martin Luther called attention to the example of a young nun named Florentina, who had abandoned her vows and escaped from a convent in Eisleben, Germany. Florentina was born of nobility, but was committed into a cloister at age 6 (against her will) by her parents. This came as a result of the urgings of her Aunt, who was the Abbess of the convent. By the time Florentina was fourteen years old, she knew she didn’t belong there, but felt trapped by her vow. When she became acquainted with the writings of Luther, she wrote a letter to him. For this, she was severely punished and humiliated.

Florentina wrote a documentation of her escape, *“How God Rescued an Honorable Nun”*. Luther, who himself had stopped wearing monk’s clothing in 1524, published her account, along with his own cover letter and commentary. One year before the publication of Florentina’s liberation, another former nun from Saxony, Katerina Von Bora escaped her convent in Nimbschen by hiding in a pickle barrel. She had arrived in Wittenberg in the spring of 1523, scandalized by her family and the Roman Catholic Church. Throughout the year 1524, Luther tried to find her a husband, but none would suit her. She eventually won the heart of the Reformer, and they were married in the summer of 1525.



# **LCMS Campus Ministries are Better Together**

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On October 5th, Wittenberg will join forces with another LCMS campus ministry, University Lutheran Church and Student Center, located next to the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana for a canoeing trip. This is Wittenberg's second time participating in this LCMS event. All the students will travel to Turkey Run State Park in Indiana and paddle their way through the beautiful fall colors. "Turkey Run State Park's 2,382 acres was purchased during Indiana's centennial in 1916 when the State Park system was first established. Turkey Run is Indiana's second state park. There are many legends about how Turkey Run got its name. One story says that wild turkeys, finding it warmer in the canyon bottoms, or "runs", would often huddle in these runs to avoid the cold. Pioneer hunters would herd the turkeys through these natural funnels into a central location for an easy harvest," (turkeyrunstatepark.com). There is nothing quite like participating in outdoor recreation to center yourself, spend time with God, and de-stress after the first two months of school. Praise God for natural landscapes such as Turkey Run to recreate and play in, and amazing ties to other campus ministries such as our friends at University Lutheran in Champaign-Urbana to deepen the faith.



## **Pregnancy Resource Center Banquet**

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On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Bill Jensen, his wife Cindy, and three Wittenberg students, Abby Gutz, Kaitlyn Koengistein, and Elyssa Kollmann attended the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center Banquet at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington. Abby Gutz, a Horticulture and Landscape Management student attendee commented, "it was an eye opening experience! The stories that were shared by the speakers were moving and really inspired me to look into volunteering with the organization." Praise God for fellowship between Christians dedicated to providing resources for young mothers and fathers and their unborn children. The keynote speaker, Matt Hammitt, talked and sang about his family's story of choosing life for their son and the wonderful gift their son means to their family now. If anyone you know could benefit from the opportunities and services that the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center provides, please reach out to one of their locations. They are committed to providing families with excellent care, compassionate support, and honest information all while centering their actions in Christ.

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# International Neighbors Night/CRU Bridges



## October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm is the next INN (International Neighbors Night)!

At the September 20<sup>th</sup> INN, the crew competed for national pride in several games to see which countries would come out on top, Olympic style!

Before the games began, the athletes made sure to “carb load” on the delicious dishes and desserts so they could perform their best (top).

Congratulations to Bangladesh for winning silver and gold in Foosball (middle) and Spain for sweeping the podium for Ping Pong, Darts, Pool, and Air Hockey (bottom).


**October 4th at 6:30pm is the next CRU Bridges International Dinner** at Wittenberg Lutheran Center. This pattern will continue every first Friday of the month of the school year for Bridges, and every third Friday of the month for INN.

Thank you to all who helped organize the food and run the games and prizes for our international neighbors. Your continual support is truly a gift from the Lord!





# OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30	30	1	2 Bible Study @6 Chapel @ 7:15	3	4 CRU/Bridges*	5
6 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30 3pm Deaf Ministry	7 District Pastors' Conference, Pastor not in office	8	9 Bible Study @6 Chapel @ 7:15	10	11 IWU Fall Break Day Rader Farms Fellowship @1	12 "Christ and the Resurrection" 8:30-11:30am @Wittenberg
13 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30	14 Indigenous Peoples/ Columbus Day	15	16 Bible Study @6 Chapel @ 7:15	17	18 International Neighbors Night @6:30pm	19 Hall of Tyrannus "Faith that Shines in the Culture" 10-4pm @Christ Lutheran Church
20 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30  3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch 3pm Deaf Ministry	21	22	23 Bible Study @6 Chapel @ 7:15	24	25 Halloween Costume Party @5pm	26
27 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30	28	29	30 Bible Study @6 Chapel @ 7:15	31 Reformation Day &  Halloween	1 CRU/Bridges*	2
NOVEMBER						

\*CRU/Bridges dinners will be on every first Friday of the month evenings from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

More fellowship events to come! Check our Facebook, Instagram, or Redbird Life pages for more information!

**Wittenberg Lutheran Center**  
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Instagram: wlclcms  
Website: <https://wittenberglutherancenter.com/>  
Pastor Bill's Email: [jensen.william.a@gmail.com](mailto:jensen.william.a@gmail.com)



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