



# WITTENBERG LUTHERAN CENTER

## THE BULLETIN BERG: APRIL & MAY 2024 EDITION

### FROM *the* PASTOR

The pursuit of history is more important now than ever before. I say that with confidence because the pace of history-making events is more rapid than ever. Likewise, the pace of cultural and technological change. Neil Postman, (of whom I am a big fan of, by the way), writes of this. Currently, this pace seems to be frantic, putting us at risk of focusing so much on the constant changes we face, to the extent that we forget from where we've come. Taking amore Biblical perspective, we see this playing out, too.

Over 6,000 years ago, more than 4,000 years before Christ, God populated His garden and established people in His world with the first man and woman, the first marriage and family, And with their first sin, God established His first promise of redemption: a savior to come, from among God's people, to restore our righteousness.

After the events early in Genesis took place, the promises and prophecies of this Redeemer-Savior increased in number and in detail, until at last they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man. One of those promises is recorded in Jeremiah 29:11...

***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”***

Hopelessness is becoming commonplace in our culture, and today's college-aged young people are very susceptible to feelings of exasperation and despair.

We began this school year with the theme “**Hope to Live By**”. Over the course of the two semesters, we touched on this theme often, including “Expectant Hope” in Advent, “Un-veiled Hope” for the Transfiguration, and “Penitent Hope” during Lent. As we close out the school year, we look forward with “Resurrection Hope,” the joy of Easter for us all. Personally, with my mom's recent funeral still fresh in my memory, this Easter adds another loved-one to the list of people I can't wait to see again!

Also, with the conclusion of another scholastic year, we possess a hope that includes God's blessings for our graduating students, those who will be student-teaching next year, foreign students who are going back to their homelands, returning underclass students, and those who have already committed to joining us in the fall, either by transfer or as new freshmen. As Christians, we have a hope that not only defines us, but it compels us and drives our daily lives.

Hopefully,

*Pastor Bill Jensen*



## We Have a Website!!



This February, Wittenberg Lutheran Center launched their website. These monthly newsletters will now also be available online for all your paperless on-the-go needs! We will continue to mail your newsletters to you.

Senior Anna Maleske recently constructed the new website for Wittenberg. She has been very involved with restarting the Facebook and Instagram accounts during her time here as well. Anna is an Agriculture Communications major at ISU and used this as an opportunity to help her expand her communications experience in marketing for her professional career. She shared, "When presented with this opportunity, I was really excited to learn what all was involved in the process of building a website.

Being able to share Wittenberg related resources and information to students and the community is what I am most excited about for this website launch!". The monthly newsletter will also be added to the website as they are published.

To view the new website and to stay up to date on information and announcement please visit: <https://wittenberglutherancenter.com/>

## Tie Blankets: Service Night

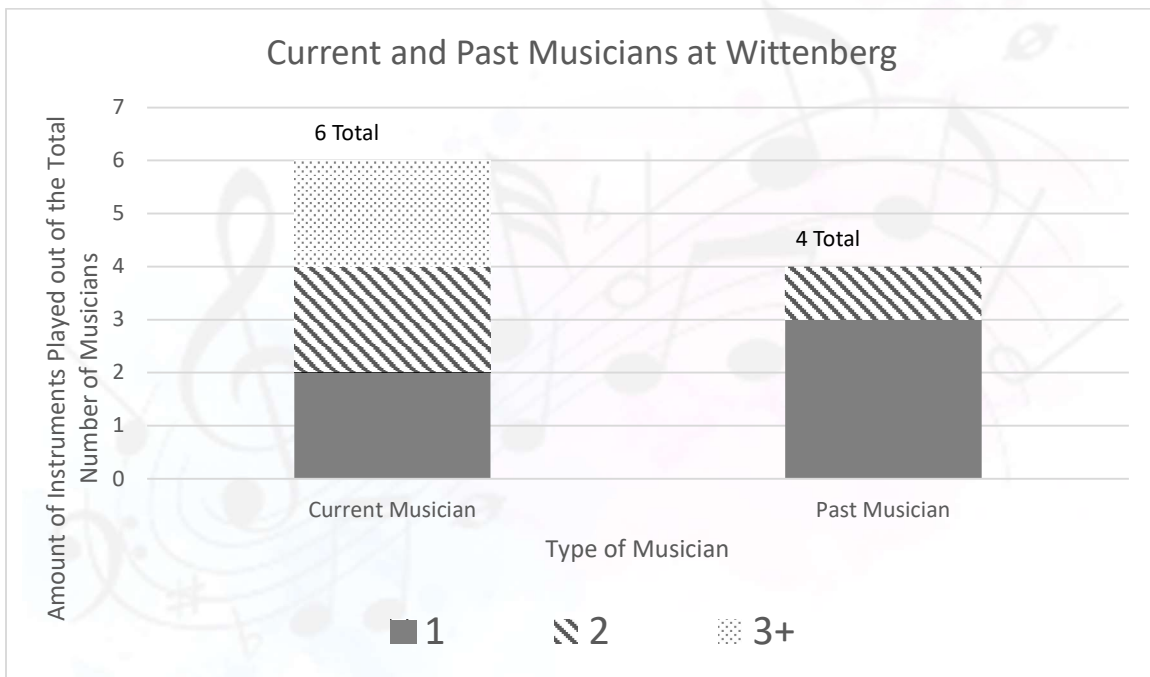


Look at that before and after transformation!! These 8 tie blankets were made and donated to Carriage Crossing. They were designed to be the perfect "over the lap" blanket for residents. Cards were also made for the residents to bring in some springtime encouragement to brighten their day. Warm and cozy wishes to our friends at Carriage Crossing!



# Musical Ministry

Ever wonder how many musicians attend Wittenberg? There are six current musicians and there are four past musicians. Of those six current musicians, there are two each that play one, two, and three or more instruments! Of those musicians, two are our music majors, Brian Hershey and Abby Sheltons. These current musicians are delighted when they get to share their musical talents with the congregation! Brian Hershey has played cello for a special Wednesday night chapel service and Jessica Isaac, Kaitlyn Koenigstein, and Kristin Kolbus prepared a clarinet-flute trio for the Palm Sunday service. Rock on, Wittenbergers!



If you or someone you know is interested in playing piano or organ for the Wednesday night chapel services, we are looking for some new musicians! This position is open starting after the lent services this semester and will run until filled. We are seeking a volunteer to play from 7:15-8:00pm at Wittenberg (201 S. Main Street). This is an unpaid position, great for service hours or practice hours! A pianist is needed for next school year's chapel services too. Contact Kaitlyn Koenigstein at (618) 340-6436 or email [kaitlyn.koenigstein@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlyn.koenigstein@gmail.com) if interested!

## Seeking Meal Sponsorships from *YOU!!*

Each month, Wittenberg hosts International Neighbors Night, a free fellowship opportunity catered toward international families & students. If you and your family or organization are looking for a way to give back to Wittenberg or donate your offering in a special way, consider sponsoring an International Neighbors Night meal. We are looking to expand our meal sponsorship list to include more places than the churches in the Bloomington-Normal area in hopes of expanding the arms of Christ to reach more families and students! Please contact us today: [@wittenberglcms@gmail.com](mailto:@wittenberglcms@gmail.com)





# Berg Events and Activities!

## Game Nights and Dungeons and Dragons:

The students at Wittenberg enjoy hosting various game nights. Since August of 2023, Wittenberg had its very own Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) campaign, started by Mitch Reh (pictured right). On average, the group has around 5-6 people attend regularly, with a maximum attendance of 8!

*“The majority of the story has focused on the group exploring a mysterious island they shipwrecked on. Now they are starting to hunt ancient, mysterious magical items that seem to be a part of something larger”* -Mitch Reh, group Dungeon Master (storyteller)






## IDOT Adopt a Highway Spring 2024:

It's that time of the semester again! Wittenberg has sponsored Main Street northbound from Empire Street to College Avenue for about 1½ years, cleaning up trash and debris. The students were glad to enjoy the nice weather and better serve their community by picking up 8 trash bags worth. There were 7 people attendance, and all went home feeling accomplished. Don't they look nice with their bright yellow vests and orange trash bags!/? Thank you to all who helped drop off the students and clean the street on this gorgeous Palm Sunday.

## 2024 Camp Cilca Spring Retreat: March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Jensen, Molly Jensen, and Abby Sheltens attended the 2024 Camp Cilca Spring Retreat. They were there with the group “Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ”. They went house to house asking folks to complete a survey to determine who in the neighborhood went to a church. They handed out flyers for a new church, Immanuel Lutheran Chapel in Springfield. Pastor Stuenkel (pictured bottom left) serves as pastor for a local church in the area and started the mission church next to the head of the Lutheran Church center. The process of canvassing for the chapel was an eye-opening experience to all who attended!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>April 2024</b>		1	2	3 Bible Study @ 6:00pm Chapel @ 7:15pm	4	5	6 Martin & Katie Conference (Champaign)
7 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30	 8	9	10 Bible Study @ 6:00pm Chapel @ 7:15pm	11	12	13 ISU Spring Scrimmage 1pm Kickoff	
14 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30  Banners Project @4-7pm	15	16	17 Bible Study @ 6:00pm Chapel @ 7:15pm	18	19	20 Earth Day Hike @11-2pm International Neighbors Night @6:30	
21 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch	 22	23	24 Bible Study @ 6:00pm Chapel @ 7:15pm	25	26 IWU Finals Week	27	
28 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30	29 IWU Finals Week	30					
<b>May 2024</b>			1 LAST of the Semster: Bible Study @ 6:00pm Chapel @ 7:15	2	3 Student Summit at Pastor's House @6:30	4 Last day of class ISU/HCC	
5 Last Sunday of Semester Celebration @11:30 Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	ISU Finals Week						
12 No Service at Berg Mother's Day♥	13	14 Circuit Pastors @ Good Shepherd Bloomington	15	16	17	18	
	Heartland Community College Finals Week						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	 27	28	29	30	31		

**Wittenberg Lutheran Center**  
**201 South Main St., Normal, IL**  
**(Located at the corner of Main St. and College Ave.)**  
**Ph. (309) 425-5971 ~ Fax (309) 454-2483**



**WITTENBERG**  
LUTHERAN CENTER

Facebook: Wittenberg Lutheran Center

Instagram: wlcclms

Website: <https://wittenberglutherancenter.com/>

Church's Email: [wittenberglcms@gmail.com](mailto:wittenberglcms@gmail.com)



**WITTENBERG**  
LUTHERAN CENTER

Wittenberg Lutheran Center  
201 South Main Street  
Normal, IL 61761