



WITTENBERG

LUTHERAN CENTER

THE BULLETIN BERG:

APRIL AND MAY
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FROM *the* PASTOR:

Jesus taught us [Matthew 5:43, Luke 6:47], “Love your enemies”. He exemplified this when He asked His Father in heaven to forgive even those at His crucifixion who were mocking and torturing Him. Jesus is a friend of sinners. He desires that all sinners repent, believe, and put their trust in His precious blood given as a ransom for us. Even those who hate Him, He loves enough to give His life for them. By His blood and the gospel proclamation of peace with God through Christ, former enemies have softened their hearts and become His friends. This is certainly Good News for us! We should all be able to relate to having our hearts softened, and giving-in to the love Jesus offers us. When we were His enemies “we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son” [Romans 5:10].

But there are some enemies of Jesus that just don’t qualify for His love. As strange as that may sound, for all His gracious favor for men and women who had become estranged from the love of God, Jesus maintains a righteous hatred for the sinful flesh that divides us. God has prepared His ultimate wrath and judgment against the devil and his demons. And He has shown His everlasting contempt for the “Father of lies” – Satan, who seeks our destruction. As a result, these things which God hates have made themselves our enemies. The devil, the evil world, and our sinful human nature are all working together, and they’re all out to get us. That’s not paranoia, that simply the truth.

So when we follow Jesus and “love our enemies”, we must be careful not to embrace those enemies God does not love. We love “the sinner”, but know that it’s still okay to hate “the sin”. We mustn’t become an ally of the sin and deception God hates. So we need to love our neighbors in such a way that their sin doesn’t deceive us and become the kind of “frenemy” that will prove to be harmful to us. The love that we have for our neighbors – even our enemies – must not extend to loving their sin, much less celebrating it. Christ died on the cross in victory over such sin. We pray “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”. We don’t want to walk blindly into trouble, or for God to reward our sin or anyone else’s. Instead we ask Him to protect us and keep us one step ahead of the evils He detests.

Many of the people we would love to love have been tricked by Satan’s deceptions. As much as we love those who have been deceived, we still have to guard our hearts so that we too don’t fall prey to such lies. We are encouraged by God’s Word not to “be conformed to the world” [Romans 12:2], and “take no part in the untruthful works of darkness” [Ephesians 5:11]. We’re told to “have nothing to do” with things that breed quarrels [1 Timothy 2:23]. All these are given to protect us from our sinful world. Likewise, St. James warns us [4:4], “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” That would just put us right back where we started!

Our lives as Christians always collide with those who don’t know Christ. The world stands between us to divide us, and wherever possible, the devil sows the seeds of doubt and deception. If that weren’t enough, our weak, powerless human frailty and our natural stubborn desire to rebel keeps us at odds with one another on this side of heaven. The Church is militant in this constant struggle. We continue to battle these enemies of God, while reaching out to the victims of this strife. God’s Word provides the only LIGHT, and is our true beacon in this dark world, shining both the Law and the Gospel. We have spent this school year bearing witness to that light! And together, we withstand all God’s enemies, and make some friends of the enemies we once had. Blessings as you grow in His light!

Blessings,

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter



We began the church season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on March 5th. Lent is a 40-day period in the Church Year marked by prayer, contemplation, and fasting. We follow Christ's example of 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil. During the final week of Lent, Holy Week, we remember Jesus' final week leading up to his crucifixion. On Easter Sunday, we rejoice in Jesus Christ's defeat of death and hell and our new life in Him! Thanks be to God!



Local Service: Cleaning Good Shepherd Lutheran

On Saturday, March 29, some of our students took a trip over to Bloomington and helped our friends at Good Shepherd Lutheran clean their church. This was inspired by the work we did in New Orleans over winter break, because the students wanted to do some more local service in our community. Thank you to Jess, member at Wittenberg and Good Shepherd for coordinating our volunteer event!



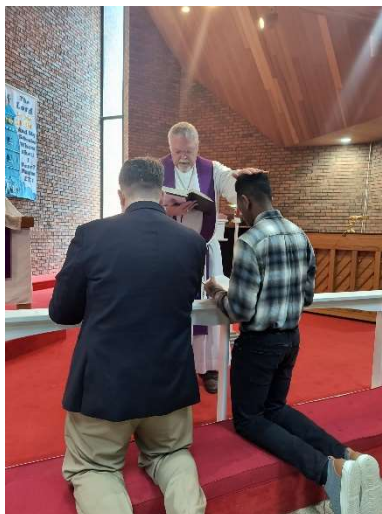
Congrats Confirmands!

We have two newly confirmed students at Wittenberg! Michael and Tylon confessed their faith and were welcomed into the Divine Sacrament on March 23, 2025. Keep both in your prayers as they enter this new step in their faith. During the service, we were delighted with music from our woodwind quartet as well! Here are their Bible verses that they chose to represent their faith; reflect on them as you go about your week!

Michael: Matthew 17:20 "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Tylon: John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'"

Following the confirmation service, the congregation and our guests enjoyed a meal and fellowship together.



Berg Events and Activities!

International Neighbors Night

We celebrated International Neighbors Night again on Friday, March 21. The food was provided by Our Redeemer church in Bloomington. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and who came! It was so much fun, and we had a great time in fellowship together.



Galentine's Day/ Men's Bowling Event

The ladies of Wittenberg got together the day after Valentine's Day to celebrate friendship and give thanks for each other. We exchanged prayer hearts, had a Bible study led by Cindy Jensen, and watched Barbie movies. About a month later, the gentlemen got together to go bowling at the ISU Bowling and Billiards Center. They had a great time in fellowship with friends and in friendly competition. *"It was really fun, and I enjoyed bonding with my brothers of Wittenberg"*, freshmen Bilingual Elementary Education major Josh Muehlberg noted.



2025 Graduates!

Congratulations and God's Blessings to our 2025 graduates! We wish you well in all your future endeavors and thank you for all your time and energy given to Wittenberg!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <div>April 2025</div>	31	1 April Fool's Day	2 Bible Study @ 6:00pm Lent Chapel @ 7:15pm	3	4 CRU/Bridges Dinner @6:30pm <div>Lock-In @9:30pm</div>	5
6 Bible Study @ 9:30 Worship @10:30	7	8	9 Bible Study @ 6:00pm Lent Chapel @ 7:15pm	10	11 <div>ISU Sibling Weekend</div>	12
13 Palm Sunday! Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30	14	15	16 NO Bible Study or Chapel	17 Maundy Thursday Service @7:15pm	18 Good Friday Service @7:15pm	19 Easter Picnic and Hike @10:30
20 Easter Sunday! Bible Study @9:30 Worship @10:30	21	22	23 Bible Study @ 6:00pm Chapel @ 7:15pm Last day of classes IWU	24	25 Paintball 5:30-9 INN @6:30 <div>IWU Finals Week</div>	26
27 Bible Study @ 9:30 Worship @10:30 IDOT Adopt a Highway @11:30 4 th Sunday Lunch	28	29	30 Bible Study @ 6:00pm Chapel @ 7:15pm <div>IWU Finals Week</div>			
<div>May 2025</div>						
				1	2 Last day of classes ISU Summit at Pastor's House @6:30	3
4 IWU GRADUATION Bible Study@ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Graduation Summer birthday celebration!	5	6	7 NO Bible Study or Chapel	8	9 Last day of classes HCC	10 ISU Graduation
11 NO Bible Study or Worship ISU Graduation Mother's Day!	12	13	14 NO Bible Study or Chapel	15	16 HCC Graduation	17

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