



WITTENBERG
LUTHERAN CENTER

**THE BULLETIN BERG:
MARCH
2026 EDITION**

FROM *the* PASTOR

I'm often asked what I think about fasting. Usually in the days before Lent, someone wonders whether they should fast somehow, and if so, what's the best way. Lent is a season in the Church year that prepares us for Holy Week and the climax of the Gospel message. Jesus' final teachings to His disciples; His last few days amidst the people – friends as well as enemies; the lasting significance of Maundy Thursday; His betrayal and arrest; Peter's denial and the mock trial that was held; and the painful scenes of Good Friday, including His sentencing and execution. It takes a good month-and-a-half to adequately digest such heavy material.

I think the best way to describe fasting is in terms of removing distractions that prevent us from focusing on Christ and what He's done for us. On that basis, any number of things might be appropriate. Often, all one really needs to find the best way to fast is to take that moment and try to focus on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. See how long you can keep it up, and the distractions will begin to reveal themselves. In the instant that such a distraction interrupts your thoughts, identify it (by name). Call it out. That specific distraction is likely a good candidate for a fast. Did your stomach growl and cause you to look away? Did you hear your phone ding, and your mind wandered?

You tried to "fix your eyes on Jesus", but you blinked. What causes us to blink? Pray to God that you overcome the distraction. Figure out a way to isolate it from your daily routine. You might not need to eliminate it completely but rather master it so that you're not enslaved by it. As we continue in our yearly theme of "Bearing God's Fruit", we'll focus this Lenten season on that fruit which is borne by the Trees of the Bible. If, along the way, you find a target for a brief fast, call it out, isolate it, and push it aside to enable an un-obstructed view of your Redeemer and Savior. And may God bless you in the struggle to see Jesus, as it is His will for you to do.

2026 Service Trip: Nashville, TN

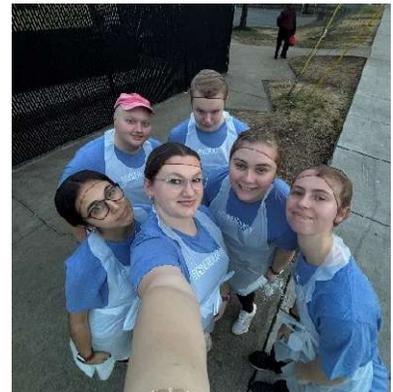
This Christmas break, from January 3rd to 8th, Wittenberg Lutheran Center attended a service trip to Nashville, Tennessee. We cleaned pews, caulked, and painted wall trim at Concordia Lutheran Church. Then, we dug up drain tiles and built shelves at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Our last act of service was serving dinner at the Nashville Rescue Mission! We were blessed to be able to attend the FCS championship game, where we watched ISU football make history by bringing the #2 seeded Montana State University into overtime. Special thank you to our donor, Debbie Huber, and other donors, who participated in making this opportunity possible for us. We enjoyed our time on Broadway, visited the Parthenon and the Tennessee State Museum, ate great food, went line dancing, and played so many games together!



Digging up drain tiles



Visiting Concordia members near Nashville



Nashville Rescue Mission



At the FCS Championship Game

The Wittenberg team learned the value of stewardship and service and were happy to share Christ's love as they worked together. A special thank-you to Pastor Bill Jensen for putting this trip together and to our new friends we met in Nashville for their hospitality!

Concordia Lutheran Church:
Reverend Dr. Eric Phillips
Emmanuel Lutheran Church:
Pastor Lane Reuter
Nashville Rescue Mission

Check out our Instagram and Facebook pages for more pictures and info!



At Emmanuel Lutheran Church



At the TN State Museum



Nashville Rescue Mission

New RSO Officer!

We have a new officer on our RSO team! Please welcome Brooke Plowman as our Social Media Manager. Please keep her in your prayers, along with the rest of our RSO leadership team! We are truly blessed to have such wonderful young leaders at Wittenberg.



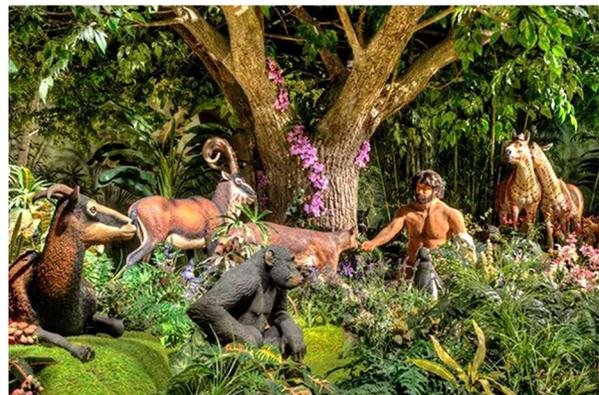
Superbowl Party

On Sunday, February 8, the Seahawks faced off against the Patriots in the 60th Super Bowl at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. We had a watch party complete with snacks, pizza, and board games. It was a fun night of enjoying the game, commercials, and the halftime show.



Creation Museum Trip

On February 21, Wittenberg woke up bright and early to go for a day trip to Petersburg, KY, to see the Creation Museum. At the 75,000 square foot museum, we learned about the "7 C's" of Biblical history, beginning with Creation and ending with Christ's return. We had a great day together learning about God's truth and growing closer to our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Ice Skating Fellowship Event!

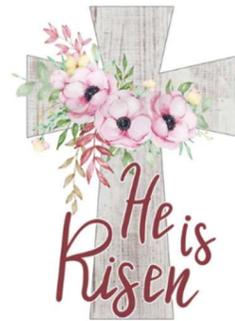
Some Wittenbergers got together for our annual ice skating at Bloomington Ice Center. It was so busy, they had to Zamboni the ice halfway through! We had a great time ice skating with everyone.

Fun Fact: Zambonis were invented after WWII by Frank Zamboni, using parts of an old Jeep! He decreased the amount of time it took to resurface an ice rink from 90 minutes all the way down to 15 minutes. Nowadays, it takes only about 5 minutes!



Holy Week and Easter

During Holy Week, we will have a Palm Sunday service, a Maundy Thursday service, a Good Friday service, and an Easter Sunday service. We will not have our normal Wednesday Bible study and chapel. If you aren't going home to celebrate Easter, please come worship with us!



Blessed
Holy Week



Galentine's Event!

Galentine's Day was celebrated here at the 'Berg on February 7th. For the first time, we invited past Wittenberg women to come to our Galentine's celebration. We enjoyed some pink snacks and punch and listened to Wittenberg alumni Kendra Whittle speak about her new book "The Women who Followed the Star". We also enjoyed a Bible Study by Cindy and a prayer heart exchange. It was so wonderful to meet alumni, hear their stories and how their lives are going, and grow in our relationships with Jesus and one another. ❤️



International Neighbor Night



This February's International Neighbor Night, hosted by the I-HUB was themed around cultural clothing. Participants were asked to wear an outfit or piece of clothing that reflects their culture. Everyone had the opportunity to share what their outfit means as well as explaining cultural differences between the US and their home country.



Presentation Night!



On February 1, Wittenbergers got together to share silly presentations! From video games to coin collections to cartoon characters, we had a fun night of laughs and sharing our passions and interests with our 'Berg community.



WinterFest at ISU!

On Wednesday, January 21, we were blessed with the opportunity to share our ministry with the students at Illinois State University at Winterfest! Along with many other clubs, we got to talk to potential new students and share what fun events we do, as well as our worship and Bible study opportunities.



Ash Wednesday and Lent Worship



Originating in the early Church, the 40-day period of Lent is a time marked by fasting, prayer, and penance. The 40 days mirrors Christ's 40 days of fasting and temptation in the desert. It was formalized at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. We at Wittenberg observe Lent during our midweek Bible study and chapel services, where we focus on how we bear God's fruit through the Lenten season. Our 2026 Lent theme is: "Living Among the Bible's Trees". One thing we give up during Lent is hymns and liturgy that include the word "Alleluia", saving that praise for Easter.

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bible study @ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30	2	3	4 Bible study @6:00 Lent Chapel @7:15	5	6	7
8 <i>NO Bible study or Worship</i>	9	10	11 <i>NO Bible study or Chapel</i>	12	13	14
S P R I N G B R E A K						
15 <i>NO Bible study</i> Worship @ 10:30	16	17	18 Bible study @6:00 Lent Chapel @7:15	19	20 Lock In 9:00PM	21 Lock In
22 Bible study @ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 4 th Sunday lunch	23	24	25 Bible study @6:00 Lent Chapel @7:15	26	27	28
29 Bible study @ 9:30 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship @ 10:30	30	31	APR 1 <i>NO Bible Study or Chapel</i>	APR 2 Maundy Thursday Chapel @7:15	APR 3 Good Friday Chapel @7:15	APR 4 Easter Vigil Service @ Christ Normal @5:30



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