

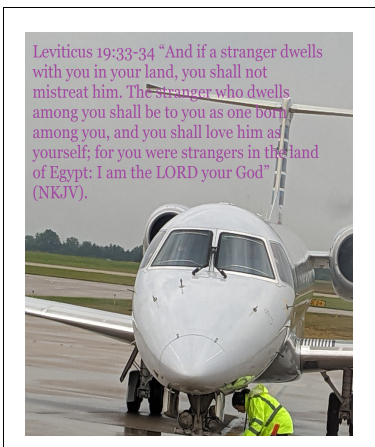


HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE

www.wittenbergcomo.com



February 2023 What's It For?



I'm sure he was sleep deprived. The graduate student I met at the airport had been in airports and on airplanes for over 40 hours. It was near midnight, thanks to a flight delay. But he had a really interesting question for me. Having met a Christian pastor for the first time in his life, he asked what people did in church. He knew someone who was a Christian, and she went to church regularly. After I explained that we sing some songs, read the Bible, have someone explain part of the Bible, pray, and sing some other songs (I skipped communion because I knew that would be too difficult), he said it was interesting. The he asked, "What's it for?"

That's probably the best question I've fielded in a very long time. A brief explanation of Christian growth, when we're about five minutes from the destination and the snowstorm is making the road pretty slippery, I thought I'd better give an answer with good traction. "Christians want to learn more about God, our relationship with God, and the way we would live, trusting God, in this world. They do that while also expressing their faith in God through singing and praying."

It's an incomplete answer, but it's what we had at the moment. In the upcoming months, we should be able to flesh it out some, as we meet together a little more. I would have asked him to come to church with me that week, but it was already the middle of the night Saturday night and he was jet lagged and sleep deprived.

The question applies to all areas of the Christian faith, though. What are we actually doing when we are reading the Bible? Are we looking for a knowledge boost? Sure. What about extra insight into God's character? Our character? Our conflicts? Our fears? When we pray, we're intending to bring honor to our Lord, expressing our trust in Him. We also normally ask some things. Are we growing in our understanding that in Christ we have been given everything we need for life and godliness? When we gather with other Christians, it's probably the only place we ever sing a song in a group. Why are we doing that? Does it make a difference what we are singing? Does the sense of community have something to do with it?



Lake Madison Lutheran Church in South Dakota is a supporter of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry!

Then there are all the other times we need to ask why we do something. Why this committee? Why is this on the agenda? Why did we follow this process and not some other in our congregational meeting? What's the purpose of that Bible study at the church building? Would it be different if we were having a study at a restaurant?

The work of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is full of different activities. I'd like to think we do each one for a purpose. I hope you'll pray with me that the Lord would use them for His purposes, drawing people into fellowship with Him through Jesus, who has given himself for them. And when you have opportunity, join with us! All our activities are for you too!

I also invite you to look at our financial update. An organization's priorities can often be seen by how its budget works. So I'll focus on a different aspect of our budget in upcoming months.

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

A new year, a new budget! So far, we're at about 2% of this year's budget received from donors. The other 98% is a long way to go, but we'll keep laboring and praying!



Gary deSha (right) is pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minnesota, a supporting congregation!

Our total budget approved by the Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry Board of Directors for 2023 includes \$3,500 which is used to give things away. This budget category funds our dinner and conversation evenings, our Heidelberg discussions, providing a meal for someone during a meeting, or coming up with books and promotional materials to give away, including our fliers, pens, cards, cups, and all the other things that show up on our display table. We don't sell anything to anybody. If someone ought to have a book or other resource, we provide it. That person, or other people, are welcome to give to Wittenberg Door so we can keep money in the budget to continue the work!

The giveaway expenditures help create a positive environment for biblical and theological discussions. They also create a culture that says good resources for learning about the Christian faith are important, and so are the people we care for.

If you are part of the Wittenberg Door 300, thank you very much! Your contribution receipt should be in the envelope with this newsletter. If you are not part of the Wittenberg Door 300, or if you know someone who would like to support this ministry, there's no time like the present to step up!

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Checks mailed to us are deposited with no commission paid to any intermediary. Most of our contributions are actually received this way, but we can receive funds sent through Paypal or Google Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com and click on "about" and "support us."

Upcoming Activities:

Mondays at 5:00 pm – Fraternity Dinner and Chapter Meeting

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm – Heidelberg Discussions (at the Heidelberg!)

Thursdays at 12:30 pm – Lunch and Learn Bible discussion at the MU Student Center

Mondays at 7:00 pm – ALTS course on Ephesians

Thursdays at 7:00 pm – ALTS Greek 2 course

Friday, February 3 – 6-8 pm Dinner and Conversation Evening

Friday, February 10 – 3:30 pm (tentative) Discussion of *The Spirituality of the Cross* – Student Center

Friday, February 17 – 6-8 pm Dinner and Conversation Evening

Friday, February 24 – 3:30 pm (tentative) Discussion of *The Spirituality of the Cross* – Student Center

Remember to get your church on my calendar!

Watch the calendar at www.wittenbergcomo.com, follow our Facebook page, and friend WDCM Chaplain on Facebook to see times and places where Pastor Spotts can be found around campuses in coffee shops or restaurants!

We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to www.wittenbergcomo.com to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!