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June 2020 Newsletter A Time for Teaching

At this time of the year, Christians typically recognize the start of a new season. This one is called by three or four different names. It may be called the Trinity season, because it begins with Trinity Sunday. This year, Trinity Sunday is on June 7. It recognizes the work of the one God in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Sometimes the season is called the Pentecost season, named from the Sunday before Trinity, Pentecost Sunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter Sunday. On Pentecost Sunday, as described in Acts chapter 2, the Holy Spirit fell upon the early Christians and empowered them as Jesus' witnesses to all the world. Sometimes the season has a more humdrum name, as it is called "ordinary time" or "the time of the Church." In Christian thought, the word "ordinary" refers to things which happen repeatedly, as a matter of course. So the "ordinary" of Christian worship would be the things which happen every Sunday. Ordinary season takes a predictable walk through the Christian life as experienced by Christians in every age.

During this season, which will last until the first Sunday in December, we remember that Christians are always to be growing in their understanding of and dependence upon God's Word. It's a great time for ongoing teaching.

Remember the idea of "summer reading"? I admit that I don't understand how the summer gives you more time for reading, since that's when the garden is growing weeds and the yard needs to be mown so frequently. But if we can have some summer reading, let's do some of it from books of a theological nature. It's a good time to learn more about God and His works in this world.

During the season of Trinity, then, and probably lasting beyond it, I'll be using the Thursday Lunch and Learn sessions to go through our Christianity 101 course. Those lessons will also go up on the Resources page at www.wittenbergcomo.com, so they can be there for free use in future years.

As we find ways to return to the campuses in accord with the local health officials' stipulations, we're going to continue using live streaming and other electronic communication methods to help get the message out. After all, there's plenty to learn from God's Word! Please join in, and invite others as well.



Wittenberg Door Financial Update

Thank you for all your financial support! That's all I can say. As I have told you in the past, we're not where the budget would like us to be, but this year, thus far, giving is ahead of where it was last year.

I'm really tired of people talking about "these challenging times" but I will run the risk of doing the same thing. Despite the fact that many people are uncertain about the direction the economy might be going, giving has remained strong. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Last month I talked about taking a part time job at a grocery store. It has provided some income, of course, and some good opportunities to meet and converse with students, among others. Lots of the employees at the store are college students or otherwise associated with the collegiate communities. So the financial opportunity is also opening some other doors to ministry.

We still need additional contributors. Our goal remains to have a total of about 300 monthly individual contributors or about 30 churches or organizations, each representing about the equivalent of 10 monthly donors. We are realistically about at 60% of the support level we need to be responsible in the long run. We've made it thus far, by God's grace, for which we are thankful.

With church congregations starting to hold in-person services again, I have received invitations to preach at a couple of churches in the area. The more people who know about the work of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry, the better.

If you or people you know want to support the work of bringing on-site, face to face, pastoral care to our academic communities, please consider making Wittenberg Door a part of your regular charitable giving. 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."

Uganda Update:

Our friends at Eleos Ministries have been able to provide more information about some of the particular situations in the areas where they are active in Uganda. There are several different groups of people in different areas. Here are two needs that Eleos has identified, along with specifics of their work. They would love to pair a church congregation up with a community in Uganda. Even a small congregation could make a huge difference in the lives and opportunities available to the Christians in Kitengesa. It might take a larger congregation to adopt the Kaliro group. But it's possible!



Kitengesa

Although Kitengesa itself has a small town feel, Eleos Ministries focuses on a small cluster of homes within the town. These homes are rented by three single mothers with many, many children between them. Their husbands all have either passed away or have left them for other women.

Needs: relationships, encouragement, some medical assistance, educational scholarships, and occasional help with

groceries

Kaliro

Kaliro is a large, sprawling district with many smaller villages within it, all bleeding into one another with no real boundaries. Eleos Ministries works with numerous families on an individual level, but is sadly struggling to keep up with the overwhelming amount of need caused by Covid-19 in the community at large. We were able to establish an agriculture program in early 2020.

Needs: Dedicated mentors for the children, educational scholarships, some medical assistance, and work building Children for Christ Primary School, specifically with funding to help meet national governmental standards for education. Some houses desperately need to be rebuilt.



Upcoming Activities:

Thursdays at 1:00 pm – Lunch and Learn Bible discussion via Zoom

Thursdays 7:00 pm Greek 2 at the American Lutheran Theological Seminary

Saturdays 11:00 am Matins service via Zoom

Watch the calendar for times and places where Pastor Spotts can be found around campuses in coffee shops or restaurants!

Sunday, June 7 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., Monday, June 8 6:00 p.m. Pastor Spotts at Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia MO

Sunday, July 26 10:00 a.m. Pastor Spotts at Hope Lutheran Chapel, Osage Beach MO

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 <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!