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March 2021 Newsletter Lenten Disciplines

We've been walking through the Church year lately. Last month we particularly remembered the change from Epiphany to Lent. But Lent is a fairly long season. What do we do this month? After all, Easter doesn't come around until the beginning of April this year.

Last month I mentioned that Lent is an excellent time to take on some practice that you might not do as regularly as you would like. I suggested more regular attendance at church, more regular practices of Bible reading, or a decision to pray at times and for things you haven't thought of before. I wonder how it's going? And that makes me wish I had thought a little more in advance, to ask questions which could feed all of our imaginations.

Better late than never, though. Let's ask for some feedback. How do you go about Bible reading? Do you have a calendar or schedule? Do you do some devotional reading, such as a Portals of Prayer or a Daily Bread? Do you just move a bookmark through the Bible? Do you do some journaling or read some other books, such as commentaries, to help you gain insight?

Please let us know. We'd like to share ideas with the congregation. Drop me a note by email or through the contact form on the website. Tell how you go about your Bible study. Tell us how you track with prayer needs or how you practice prayer in particular.

Above all, please don't give up. Bask in the Word of God. In prayer, hang out with God, telling him your concerns, seeking to understand his interests.

And, in closing, here's my Bible reading plan. It's a tough one. You need four bookmarks. I like pieces of sticky notes so I can make sure they are pointed at the particular chapter where I am. To start, put one at Genesis 1, one at Psalm 1, one at Matthew 1, and one at Acts 1. I'll read two chapters from the Old Testament, one Psalm, one chapter from Acts and what follows it, and one chapter from a Gospel. It takes about 15-20 minutes. The entire Old Testament takes about a year. I end up going through Psalms about twice a year, the Gospels more like four times a year, and the rest of the New Testament about twice a year.

Over time, we can come to know God's Word better and better. The more we know, the more we are able to rest in the knowledge that we have heard God's voice and know how He would have us live in this world.

Remember to let us know how you go about your Scripture reading and prayer!

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

What do I say about this?? God's people are being very faithful and entrusting us with some of the money the Lord has blessed them with. We're working diligently to be good stewards of our resources and making them stretch as far as possible.

Your financial support matters. I was reminded of this again last week, when I ran into a computer problem which is resulting in a computer replacement (sadly) at a good price (happily). This also explains the lack of pictures and the like. Working at odd moments on borrowed computers is not all that compatible with even my feeble attempts at graphic design.

We're doing all right financially. However, we still want to fill out our roster on the Wittenberg Door 300! If we have 300 monthly financial supporters we expect that the budget will be able to support the nuts and bolts of our campus ministry work as well as staffing. In the meantime, we're managing to take care of most of the particular ministry expenses, but not the entirety of our housing and medical care, and no salary from Wittenberg Door. Please continue to invite your friends and associates to consider supporting this work.

Though I'm serving a local church, I do have the ability to make a visit to a congregation that is thinking of providing support for this ministry. We can and will work out a visit so your congregation can hear how to be partners with us in providing the face to face pastoral care on campus that is our hallmark.

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:

We have some sad news on the Uganda front. Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry, in response to an investigation of some suspicious looking receipts we received from Pastor Simon Peter, found irregularities in his stewardship of funds earmarked for Alice's medical care. Since 2017, we have raised and dedicated more than a hundred thousand dollars which enabled her to have lifesaving brain surgery and follow-up treatment. We thank God for this. However, the recent irregularities in the bookkeeping left us in doubt as to whether all the funds were being used as designated. Therefore, Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry has ended our involvement in this fundraising project.

We have not yet identified another benevolence project. However, as we consider possibilities, we will also seek out particular needs for prayer and encouragement, both in the United States and around the world.

Upcoming Activities:

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

Watch the calendar, 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!

There has been a significant decline in COVID-19 cases in our county. With the vaccine now available, we may well be able to start having more gatherings. Spring is on the way! We'll start getting together again somewhere and somehow in the near future.

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. Pastor Spotts at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Centralia 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!