



HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE



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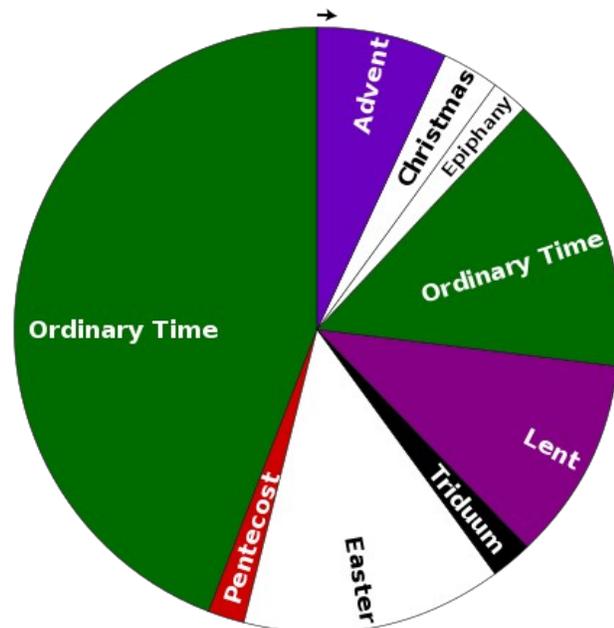
June 2021 Newsletter Ordinary . . .

We've been walking through the different seasons of the Church year in recent months. Most of the seasons are relatively short. We saw Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and then the quick succession of Ascension, Pentecost Sunday, and Trinity Sunday.

Now it's time to settle in for the long season of the Church year, the one with too many names. Most often it's called the season of Pentecost, though sometimes it is called the season of Trinity, since Trinity Sunday is at the start. In a less inspired manner, some church bodies refer to it as "ordinary time."

This season begins with Trinity Sunday, which this year is May 30. It then walks through the life of the body of Christ, bit by bit, starting with the idea of new life and continuing to the hope of the second coming of Christ as we approach the end of the season. The conclusion is the last Sunday in the Church year, the fifth Sunday before Christmas, which is that Sunday closest to the commemoration of St. Andrew, November 30.

In this season, which lasts approximately six months, we need to ask ourselves how we are going to walk our way through the Christian life. Do we dedicate ourselves, as did the earliest Christians, to the apostolic doctrine, to the public reading and explanation of Scripture, to prayers in community with others, and to bringing the news of Jesus' perfect life, death, burial, and resurrection to rescue sinful humanity from our sin? Do we try to recognize the work of Christ in all of life? Do we try to live as his hands reaching to our world, drawing people to him through his reconciling love which breaks down the barrier our sin has erected between us and God?



By James E. Scarborough - Own work, CC0,
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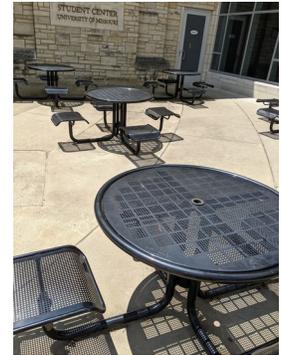
There are all sorts of ways we can do this. I'm not big on making New Year's Resolutions, but the start of the season of Pentecost is a great time to dedicate ourselves once again to living out the Gospel in our families, in our schools, in our workplaces, and in our communities. So here's the challenge. What would you like to see Jesus doing through you in this world? Will you pray for courage and guidance? Will you ask others, including your pastor, your elders, and other respected Christian leaders to encourage you and enable you? Will you step out and trust the Lord is as good for all the world as He is for you?

Lord of all, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon your people, that they may boldly reach out to love and serve their neighbors, every last one, as you have reached to them.

What Does a Campus Pastor Do in the Summer?

I field this question pretty frequently. Are those break times in the college schedule breaks? Nothing happens then, right?

On one level, it couldn't be farther from the truth. During the inter-session breaks, we have an excellent opportunity to catch up with some of the year-round staff on campus. They are part of the community as well. We can engage in strategic planning. How will we reach to this or that part of the population? How have our activities done in the past? What do we need to adjust for the future? We also realize that there are several rounds of summer classes and large numbers of international scholars, who may be teachers, researchers, or students, coming into town. Who are they going to meet? Will there be Christians on-site who can welcome them (Exodus 23:9, Romans 15:7, Matthew 25:31-40)?



On another level, there is a little more flexibility. It's usually a good time to make presentations in supporting churches, to renew relationships with contributors, to travel a little, and maybe to see some local sites that may be good places to take newcomers. In the past, pre-COVID, we normally had an international dinner and conversation night every other week during the school year. During the summer, we only have two or three big gatherings.



Since I mentioned COVID, I'll point out that the social dynamic on campuses has changed radically in the past fifteen months. For example, at Mizzou, masks were required in all campus facilities until very recently. Seating was rearranged in public spaces so as to keep people separated from each other. Multi-user tables had plexiglass screens in the middle. Outdoor tables and chairs were mostly taken away. Those that remained had only one seat per table. We think we may be returning to some sense of normalcy. You will notice some pictures I took on campus in the past few days. Observe that though the students seem to be gone, there are now places for them to sit!

What does a campus pastor do in the summer? Above all, we pray for those we minister to. It's a big time of transition for many of the students, faculty, staff, and administration members. We pray that they will find the rest and comfort we find in Christ.

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

Thank you so much for your support! We've had some new contributors showing up recently. But there's still room for more! Just a reminder, the Wittenberg Door 300 has the number 300 because we can make our entire budget, including caring for a full-time pastor doing face to face pastoral ministry on the college campuses in Columbia Missouri if we have 300 regular contributors making a modest monthly donation. Your monthly support of \$30-\$50 can make an eternal difference in the lives of our collegiate communities. Please continue to invite your friends and associates to consider supporting this work.

During this time of cultural, economic, and educational uncertainty, with all sorts of voices calling students and faculty members alike to embrace a radical agenda which doesn't lead to confidence, stability, and fulfillment, it is more important than ever that we make much of Jesus, the one who gives eternal life that nobody can take away!

Though I'm serving a local church on a part time basis, 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."

Additional Benevolence

Please continue to pray with us, and send us suggestions, as we try to identify an additional benevolence project to engage in. We've built giving into the DNA of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry. 10% of contributions go to the American Association of Lutheran Churches, our overseeing church body. In the past we have often found needs to which people could contribute. It takes money to support those who take the Gospel around the world.

While we seek to identify another project, please join with us in praying that the Lord would continue to raise up workers in His kingdom, particularly those who have a desire to serve as pastors to areas that would otherwise be underserved. The harvest is great and the laborers are few.

Upcoming Activities:

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

Sundays - Adult Bible Class (Galatians) 9:00 am, Divine Service 10:00 am, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Centralia MO

June 8-10 - Pastor Spotts at the AALC Greater Heartland Regional Conference, Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo IA

July 5-22 - Pastor Spotts on vacation, recovering from running much too fast!

We hope to learn more in the near future about welcome back activities planned by the University of Missouri, Stephens College, and Columbia College!

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!

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!