



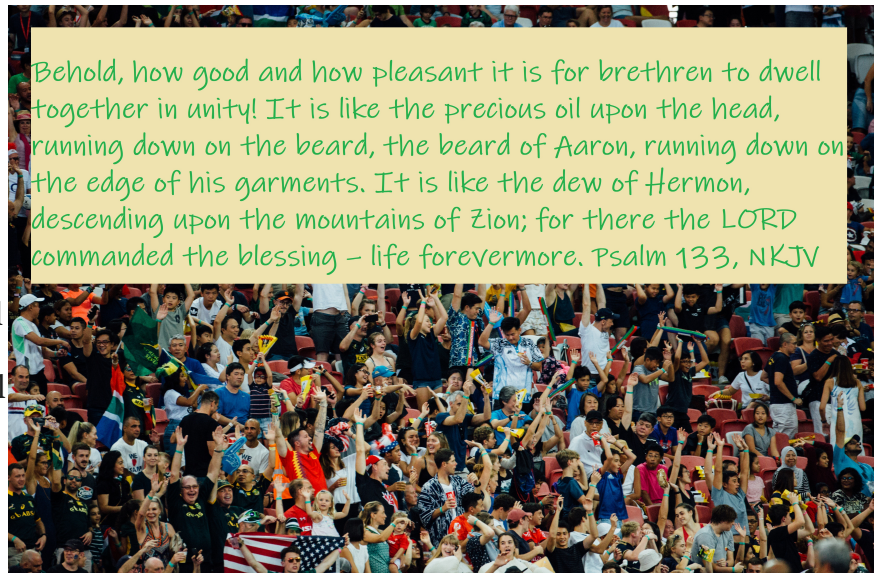
# HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE

[www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com)



## June 2022 Both Inclusive and Exclusive

Psalm 133 reflects on how good it is when God's people are together in unity. There's a great kind of togetherness we can find when we are united. And it's something many in our world need, desperately. While all the forces in our contemporary society try to pull us apart and isolate us, we realize that isolation and radical individualism almost always cause harm, not benefit. How do we fix these problems? By working for togetherness, happiness, and harmony.



*Photo by Hanson Lu on Unsplash*

There's one big problem in that. Drawing people together is only a partial solution to isolation. It's often been said that the loneliest place and time on the planet is Times Square on New Year's Eve. Why? There's a huge crowd there, such a big crowd that every individual can be anonymous. You may be united with everyone in the group in a certain way, but you are still able to be the very same, unhappy, isolated self you were the day before and will be the next day.

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:4-6, NKJV*

Psalm 133 says specifically that the unity which is blessed by God is a unity of God's people. In his letter to the Ephesians, chapter four, the apostle Paul lists several ways that Christians are united. Among other things, they have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. This is where the unity comes in.

While Christianity is inclusive, confessing that Jesus died to draw all sorts of people from all nations to himself, we are also exclusive. How's that? Historic Christianity is going to insist on some specific teachings and beliefs which identify us, which distinguish us from just everyone. There's one Lord, Jesus. He's

the only one who can save us by taking our sins upon himself. This is the one faith that we share, a faith which saves us as we trust that Jesus did indeed provide rescue from sin. There's one baptism, which is a specifically Christian washing from sin and a renewal by the Holy Spirit. There's only one true God, the Father of all, the one revealed in the Bible.

In the past year, as our local community has pulled out of the restrictions on gatherings imposed during the pandemic, Wittenberg Door has been able to start gathering people together again. The Gospel of Jesus is present. Many of the people we have been able to assemble have little or no exposure to Christianity in the past. We want to not only bring them together, but bring them together in Christ. That's the final goal of all our activities, to gather people in the blessing of God, with one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and the wonder of being God's people, dwelling together in unity.

## **Wittenberg Door Financial Update**

*So why did you mail this to me?  
Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is a  
ministry of the American Association of  
Lutheran Churches. We want to be sure  
that all our churches, pastors, and also  
our other contributors receive a copy of  
the newsletter to share, post on a  
bulletin board, or otherwise make public.  
Our work has an impact on the eternal  
destiny of the collegiate communities in  
Columbia, Missouri. We want to invite  
everyone to participate through  
prayers and giving!*

Over the past two years, Pastor Spotts has served an area LC-MS congregation on a part time basis. This has not only helped the local church through a time of vacancy and their own discernment process, it has also provided a salary which allowed for ongoing campus ministry work on a part time basis.

The local church has now called a pastor! It's time for Pastor Spotts to dedicate his full time and attention to developing the work of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry. To keep providing face-to-face in-person ministry to all the students, faculty, staff, and administrators on the campuses in Columbia, we need to concentrate on gathering a

budget that will be able to support the work in the long run. Generation after generation of scholars will be passing through the community. They need to be introduced to Jesus!

The "Wittenberg Door 300" is our group of regular contributors. With the average monthly contribution of \$50, if we have three hundred contributors we will be fully funded to have a full-time pastor, whatever office assistance we need, and to conduct many activities on campus to bring the Gospel to all who will hear. We're still short of that goal. With your help we know we can accomplish great things for Christ!

I'm now taking every opportunity to introduce the work to church congregations and remind them that we are here on the campuses as part of their work of outreach to the world. Though many of the routine operating expenses of WDCM have been covered by generous giving, we have not been able to reach the point of providing housing, health care, or a salary for Pastor Spotts. As you can imagine, this is a significant part of our budget. Please consider stepping forward with support.

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](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com) and click on "about" and "support us."



(Albrecht Dürer, 1508, Praying Hands, Albertina Museum, Vienna)

## Special Prayer Updates

*Pray that I will have many opportunities, both in person and remotely, to tell local congregations about the work I do, bringing real-live pastoral care to anybody in need within the campus communities.*

*Pray that we will be able to build the ministry budget so as to provide well for future ministry needs.*

Our English language coaching program has regularly been the front line for making contact and building relationships with newcomers. Please pray that more native English speakers will step forward and receive the training to expand our coaching program.

*Pray that we will be faithful to care for each person we are brought in contact with.*

There is increasing interest among some of the leaders of a local fraternity to have a more distinctive Christian character in the local chapter.

*Pray that relationships will grow in a Christ-honoring manner and that the young men will grow in their desire to live out a Christian life in all things.*

*Pray that we will continue to have fruitful contacts with the students in the Greek system.*

*Pray that the Lord's Word will show itself powerful to draw young men to him.*

*Pray that we will be able to continue to minister with consistent care and attention.*

We're taking a little break from our Wednesday evening studies at the Heidelberg. We hope to start them up again as the next academic year approaches. In the past, these have become intense and thoughtful discussions, reminding me of some of the interactions I've heard about

from Francis Schaeffer's L'Abri communities.

*When we first did a Heidelberg discussion, it took about a year before it started drawing interest. Pray that we will be steadfast and patient.*

I have asked for prayer as I deal with exhaustion and sleep apnea. I am gradually recovering energy.

*Pray for continued recovery and rest.*

*Pray that I will find a workable balance and schedule that will allow productive ministry.*

*Pray that the Lord will make it clear to me what is critical and what is not.*

In all things I give thanks for you and your care which you have shown for me, both now and over the past several years!

## **Upcoming Activities:**

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

Sunday 6/19 Pastor Spotts at Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Iowa

Monday-Tuesday 6/20-21 TAALC Clergy Commission Interviews, Minneapolis

Tuesday 6/21-Friday 6/24 TAALC General Convention, Minneapolis

Sunday 6/26 Pastor Spotts at Grace Lutheran Church, Nunda SD, and Lake Madison Lutheran Church, Rutland, SD

July – fellowship activity TBA – please watch our events calendar!

Mizzou classes begin August 22. Welcome activities will be the week before that. Dinner and Conversation evenings to begin Friday, August 19.

**Remember to get your church on my calendar!**

Watch the calendar at [www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://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 <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!**