

WITTENBERG DOOR
-----CAMPUS MINISTRY-----

HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE

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August 2023 Ready to Launch?

After the whirlwind of June, life in July around Wittenberg Door has been a lot quieter! We've been able to plan for a number of activities coming up in the new academic year. I'm especially excited about two new opportunities. They will take a little space to describe, so we won't have many pictures in this month's newsletter.

First, the men of the Beta Sigma Psi fraternity have asked me to lead them in a weekly study, which they have confirmed for Thursdays at 7:00 pm, in their fraternity house. We'll be working through my year-long (28 unit) series called, "That You May Know." The title of the series is inspired by John chapter 20, verses 30-31. "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (English Standard Version) Knowing the words and deeds of God in Christ naturally leads to belief in Jesus, and having the abundant and eternal life He creates.

Each unit of the study is a series of biblical passages and leading questions which zero in on a topic of significance to Christian faith and practice. Rather than wondering what God might think about something, we look to the Word He has revealed, evaluating its importance to an area of life. Through the course of the study, not only are participants encouraged to ask and answer challenging questions in light of Scripture, but they are also frequently confronted with the strikingly different values held by most Christians throughout history in contrast with our greater culture.

My prayer is that some of the men of the fraternity will develop a clearer picture of how their lives are lived in this age in view of the eternal Lord of all, and that they will gain a better grasp of how to respond to the trials they face in their personal, academic, and vocational lives. I hope you who read this newsletter will join me in praying this way as well.

The second new opportunity is the result of a brainstorm which was provoked by discussions with several ministry supporters, reading that I have done about academic Christian communities, and a few comments various people made at the campus ministry conference I attended at the end of May and beginning of June.

The “door” part of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry represents the practice of posting notices for discussion and debate on the door of a church. Christianity has historically been willing to discuss all sorts of topics, as we confess that we are living in this very concrete world where various topics come up! God is not indifferent to our culture, to scientific inquiry, to literary pursuits, or to the way social and political discourse occurs. On the contrary, He created it all! Rather than attempting to escape from academia, our goal is to show that God in Christ welcomes those who would ask serious questions and investigate difficult concepts.

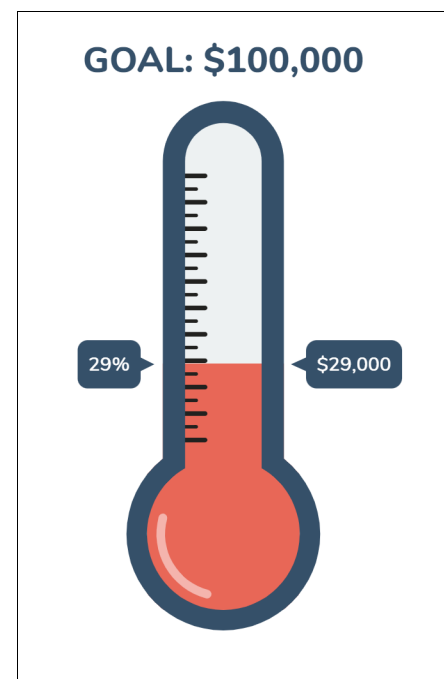
Our intention, therefore, is to create a series of “open door” type discussions, inviting scholars on the graduate level and above to make brief presentations of research they are performing, then to invite questions. Since we are a Christian organization and value the role of our Lord in our inquiry, some of the questions will certainly provide opportunity to develop a full-featured Christian worldview when dealing with the problems addressed by research.

I am very curious to see how this works out. My hope and prayer is that, at the very least, both presenters and those who are curious enough to come to a presentation will gain a deeper understanding not only of the subject matter presented but also of the care that God in Christ has for his creation and for the work we do as we attempt to learn more about our surroundings.

As I write this newsletter article, I do have a confirmed presenter for the end of September. I'm still working on someone who will be ready for the end of August. The program is definitely in its experimental phase.

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

I promised in February to keep speaking very specifically about the Wittenberg Door finances. Last month, I wrote briefly about conferences. This month, we take a look at the other side of last month's topic. Spending on conferences is paired with continuing education in the Wittenberg Door budget. As I said last month, that category is overspent. We normally restrict it to The AALC general convention and a fall pastors' conference. This year there have been a couple of additional opportunities. Learning and growing as a pastor is always a good idea. Our learning is normally spurred on by time spent together with others who are eager about some area of knowledge. You can easily imagine that the atmosphere of inquiry is crucial. When a pastor takes a course, researches something, and discusses it with others, or makes presentations about topics, the pastor not only gives information to others, but he also gains ideas and insight.



I've been working my way toward the end of a doctoral project. It's been a great learning opportunity. Thanks to having a dedicated portion of the budget for education and conferences, I can legitimately reap some tax advantages, as Wittenberg Door says continuing education is part of my job description. It's worth doing anyway, and having it encoded in the budget makes it even more enticing!

As always, thank you for your support! We can always use more individual and congregational regular donors as part of the Wittenberg Door 300! Year to date, with about 58% of the year completed, we have raised about 29% of our budget. Giving has been down a little bit in the month of July. I encourage my faithful supporters to reach out to others who may choose to keep Wittenberg Door busy about the Gospel on campus!

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 as well. A fellow chaplain has also introduced me to Apple Pay, which can be done through text messaging, with no commission. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com and click on "about" and "support us" to learn more.

Please Pray

for a safe return to academic life and surroundings for our students, faculty, staff, and administrators,
for increased trust in God's Word and promises,
for opportunity to build lasting and purposeful relationships, especially with our international scholarly community,
for God to raise up native English speakers who will assist our international ministry,
that the Lord will draw people into discipleship relationships,
for increased ability to care for and bring Christ's mercy to all our community,
that the church congregations of The AALC will thrive and grow together,
that we may be diligent about the many vocations the Lord has given us.

Upcoming Activities:

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

Sunday, July 30 – Pastor Spotts at St. John's Lutheran Church, Lohman, MO

Sunday, August 13 – Pastor Spotts at the Boonville Tri-Parish Congregations

Friday, August 18 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm at the Spotts' House.

Sunday, August 20 – Pastor Spotts at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township, OH

Monday, August 21 – Mizzou classes begin, Pastor Spotts begins dinner and chapter meeting visits to the Beta Sigma Psi fraternity on Monday evenings.

Thursday, August 24, 7:00 pm - "That You May Know" Bible study series begins at Beta Sigma Psi.

Wednesday, August 30, 5:30 pm – Wittenberg Door hosts an “open door” discussion at The Heidelberg Restaurant. Guest speaker TBA. A presentation of recent research will be followed by a Q&A period.

Thursday, August 31, 7:00 pm - “That You May Know” Bible study at Beta Sigma Psi.

Friday, September 1 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm at the Spotts' House.

Friday, September 15 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm at the Spotts' House.

Wednesday, September 27, 5:30 pm – Wittenberg Door hosts an “open door” discussion at The Heidelberg Restaurant. Guest speaker TBA. A presentation of recent research will be followed by a Q&A period.

Friday, September 29 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm at the Spotts' House.

Sunday, October 15 – Pastor Spotts at Trinity Lutheran Church, Clarks Fork, MO

Monday, October 30-Thursday, November 2 – Pastor Spotts at The AALC Pastors' Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Thursday, November 2-Friday, November 3 – The AALC Clergy Commission meets, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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 wittenbergcomo.com to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!