

THE WITTENBERG



JUNE 2011

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 6

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when its branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. Matthew 24:32

People of Wittenberg:

This just in: The END has been rescheduled for October 21, 2011. According to our friends at *Family Radio* we have another five months to fret, pack, sell our belongings and warn the world.

I am constantly amazed that the doomsday prophecies of the Christian fringe gain so much traction in the news cycle. While the Church quietly labors to feed the hungry, care for the sick and point the world to Christ, the purveyors of erroneous biblical interpretation enrich themselves by questioning our spiritual “readiness” and the legitimacy of our relationship with God.

Speaking in parables, Jesus reminds us that new leaves signal the approach of summer. His point? Let God worry about the END. In our quest to pinpoint the exact moment that Jesus will return, we lose sight of the fact that Kingdom is already blooming and unfolding in the present.

While we wait for God’s future, let us shout glorious good news to a world that hears plenty of the bad variety. *Do Not Be Afraid! God is with us Always!*

Peace be with you.

Michael

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SERVING THIS MONTH

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 6/5- Mrs. Barbara Nivens,
Dean & Barbie Rodgers
6/12- Gerald & Letha Long
6/19- Hazel Cooper
6/26- Mike & Linda Almgren

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Robert Epting

NURSERY—

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 6/5- Rebecca Reed
6/12- Michael Reed
6/19- Chrissy McNabb
6/26- Paula Miller

2-3 YR. OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 6/5- Chrissy McNabb, Susan Shealy
6/12- Catherine Oxner, Myra Cantrell
6/19- Myra Cantrell, Catherine Oxner
6/26- Crissie Kirby, Scarlett Summers

GREETERS

Narthex:

- Ann Nichols, Marti Burns
Commons Area:
Charlie & Beth Long

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Brian Shealy

LAY READER

Bill Caughman

ALTAR GUILD

- Wendy Epting, Dorothy Mullins,
Debbie Sawyer, Myra Cantrell,
Beth Long

USHERS

- Brian Shealy**, John Oxner,
Tom Sawyer, Dean Rodgers

NURSERY

Catherine Oxner, Chair

- 6/5- Jennifer & Chip Spradley
6/12- Linda Almgren, Paula Miller
6/19- Chrissy & Scott McNabb
6/26- Dawn & Tracy Bedenbaugh

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 6/5- Doris Antley, Kayce Shealy,
Joan Caughman
6/12- Jennifer McInnis, Chip &
Jennifer Spradley
6/19- Barbie & Dean Rodgers,
Freida Banks
6/26- Toshia Banks, Eric Dickey

TELLERS

- 6/5- Ervin Caughman, Cher Davis
6/12- Torry Dickey, Robert Epting
6/19- Billy Rauton, Rebecca Reed
6/26- Dean Rodgers, Betsy Shealy

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

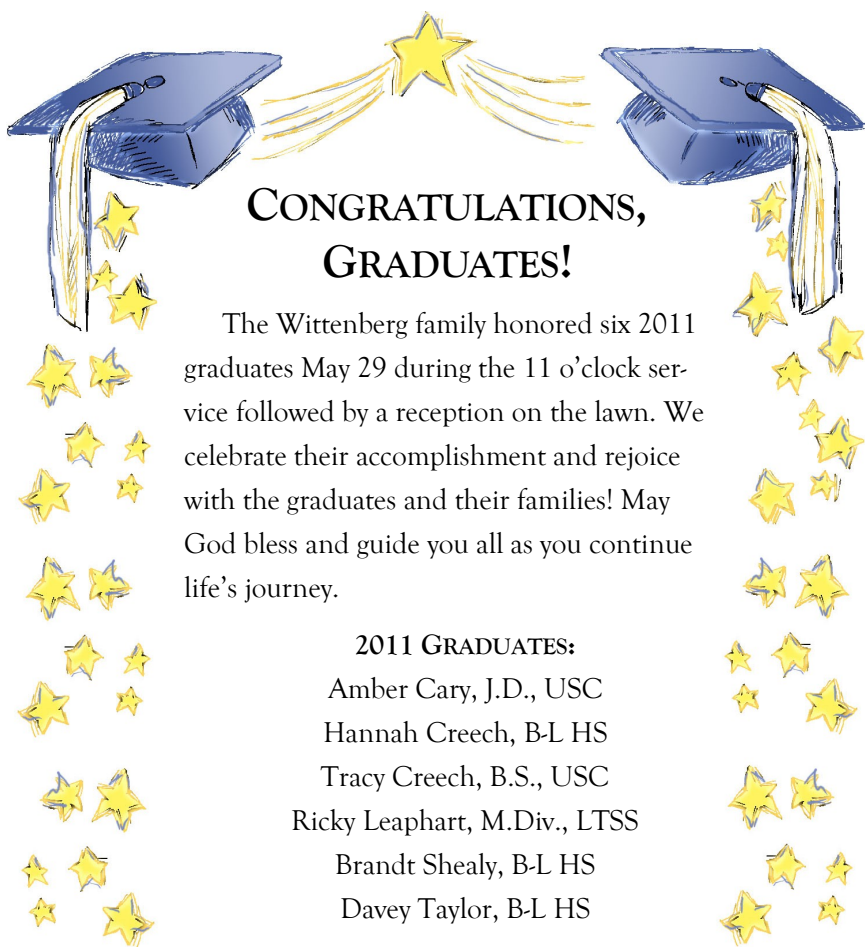
Dawn Bedenbaugh, Advisor

6/5- Acolyte: Eli Sherman
Alms Bearer: Emily Miller
Crucifer: Harlee Miller

6/12- Acolyte: James Banks
Alms Bearer: Haven Banks
Crucifer: Ross Shealy

6/19- Acolyte: Matthew Reed
Alms Bearer: Brett Spradley
Crucifer: Rachel Creech

6/26- Acolyte: Emma Osment
Alms Bearer: Lane Bedenbaugh
Crucifer: Zane Bedenbaugh



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

The Wittenberg family honored six 2011 graduates May 29 during the 11 o'clock service followed by a reception on the lawn. We celebrate their accomplishment and rejoice with the graduates and their families! May God bless and guide you all as you continue life's journey.

2011 GRADUATES:

Amber Cary, J.D., USC
Hannah Creech, B-L HS
Tracy Creech, B.S., USC
Ricky Leaphart, M.Div., LTSS
Brandt Shealy, B-L HS
Davey Taylor, B-L HS

FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH

The June First Sunday Lunch will be a covered dish meal with any offerings to be donated to the Building Fund. Please join us for fellowship and lunch after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, June 5. Any group interested in providing the First Sunday Lunch in the coming months may contact Rebecca Reed to sign up. Thanks!

VBS VOLUNTEERS MEETING

All Vacation Bible School volunteers are asked to attend a meeting on June 5 following our First Sunday lunch. We will meet in the Senior Adult classroom.

SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Men and Women's Church Softball Leagues will start the first week of June. Please let Brian or Betsy Shealy know if you are interested in playing.

THRIVENT MEETING

The Lexington-Saluda County Chapter of Thrivent meets June 16 at 7 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lexington.

CONFIRMATION CAMP

Wittenberg teens head to Lutherock June 19 for a week of Confirmation Camp. Wittenberg is a member of the Crossing Confirmation Cluster along with several midlands churches.

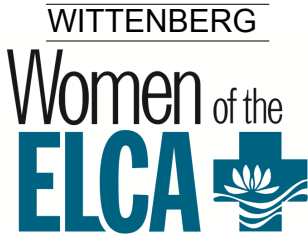
DEAR FRIENDS OF WITTENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH,

Thank you so much for providing a delicious meal for Operation Reach Out Ministry on Monday, May 2nd. We are so blessed to have your support in this ministry!

Your kindness and generosity reflects the love of Christ. May God bless you abundantly!

Operation Reach Out

(See you again on July 18.)



SC WELCA Convention Project

By Connie Kramer

For this year's convention, we are collecting American Red Cross Comfort Kits for victims of disasters such as house fires, floods or hurricanes. Following is a list of **new and unopened** items to be packed into each gallon-size zip-lock bag. Toiletry items may be travel size or full size. Full size items are preferred.

Adult Comfort Kit: Washcloth, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush/comb, razor.

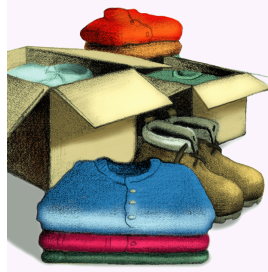
Youth Comfort Kit: Washcloth, shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush/comb, small stuffed animal.

Please put Comfort Kits in the Ladies Lounge or give them to Torry Dickey or Connie Kramer by June 12. Anyone in the church may make these kits. Thanks for your help.

Bryan Center Clothing Drive

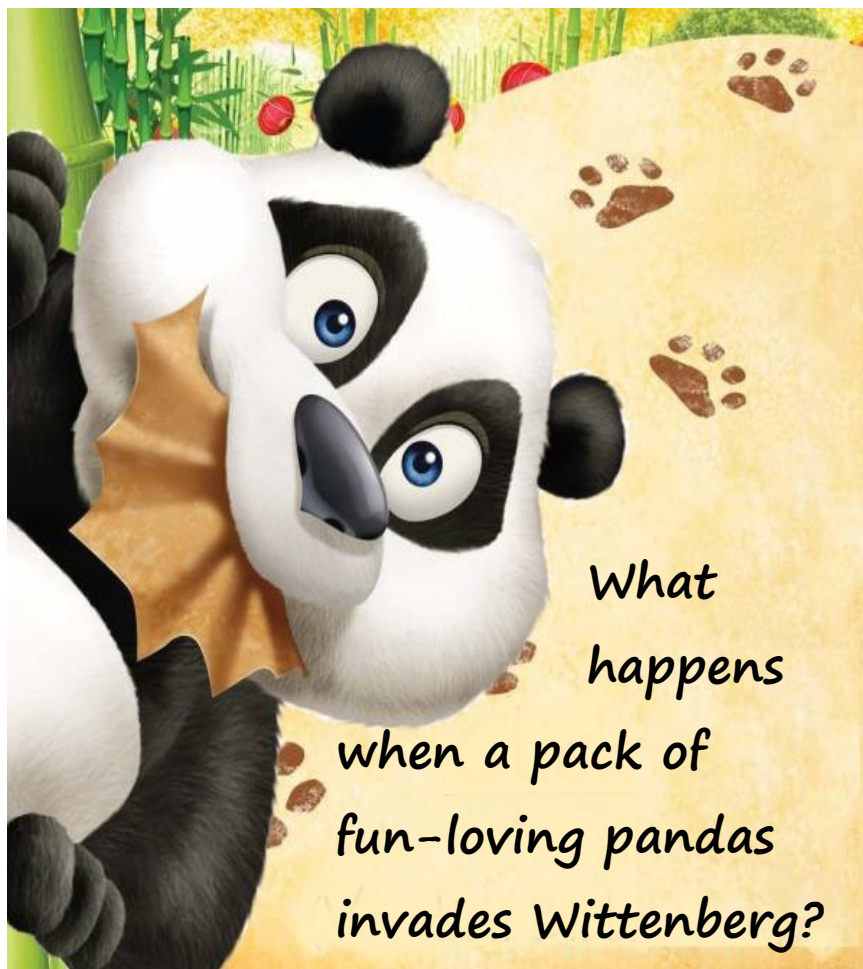
We are again collecting men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, etc., during the month of June for the Bryan Center. Please put donations in a box or bag labeled "Bryan Center" either under the coat rack in the Commons Area or in the Ladies Lounge in the Educational Building. Please have your donations to the church

by June 26. If you have questions contact Connie Kramer at 532-5558.



Circle Meetings:

- ◆ **The Morning Circle** meets June 7 at 10 a.m. Elizabeth Barnes is leader.
- ◆ **Circle V** meets June 7 at 1 p.m. Joan Caughman is leader.
- ◆ **Circle IV** does not meet in June.
- ◆ **Circle L** meets June 6 at 7 p.m. Leader and hostess is Debbie Black.
- ◆ **Hannah Circle** does not meet in June.



By Torry Dickey

Have you registered for Vacation Bible School yet? The summer is almost here and we're going to start it off with a little PandaMania at Wittenberg! Join us the week of June 12-17 from 6 - 8:15 p.m.

There will be classes for children of all ages. Pastor Sherman will teach the adult class. Pick up your registration form today, or go online and register at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/wittenberg. Also, we will support Wittenberg's Food Pantry. Remember to bring a canned good with you each night. Don't miss out on this exciting week!

Contact Torry Dickey or Dawn Bedenbaugh if you have any questions.

COME ON DOWN & CAMP OUT WITH PARISH LIFE

By Dean Rodgers

The weekend of June 24-26 we will hold a camping retreat at Camp Kinard. If you have a camper or tents please plan to join us for a fun-filled weekend. Sites are limited, so you must sign up on the sign-up sheet to guarantee your spot. The sheets will be placed in the gathering areas soon. If you can't join us for the whole weekend, come join us on Saturday night for dinner and fun. More details about this weekend will be coming soon.

Please contact Dean Rodgers at 532-1190 or Billy Rauton at 532-6504 with any questions. Hope to see you there!



By Connie Kramer

Something new is in the "Witness" this month and will continue every month. We are listing our members with anniversaries during the month, their wedding dates, and the number of years they have been married.

No matter how many years you've been married, it's a wonderful day to celebrate. So we just want to recognize this special day with you. Most married couples in the church have been contacted. However we do not have every couple's wedding date. If you have not been asked please call the church office and tell Karen the month, day and year you were married or contact Connie Kramer at 532-5558.

ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE

RESPONDING TO U.S. SEVERE STORMS

An outbreak of tornadoes tore across the Midwest on May 22, leaving a path of destruction from Texas to Minnesota. Especially hard-hit is Joplin, Mo, where a powerful tornado leveled the community, killing at least 120 people. Residents describe the city as “unrecognizable.”

ELCA Disaster Response is supporting communities overwhelmed by tornadoes, rising waters and leveled by destructive winds. Our church is reaching out to the survivors of these devastating storms and assessing the needs—working together for as long as it takes.

Your help is needed today to bring immediate relief and ongoing support to communities affected by these disasters. **Gifts designated to “U.S. Severe Storms” will be used in full—100 percent—to help disaster survivors clean-up, rebuild and recover.** Gifts designated “Where Needed Most” help to respond immediately and effectively where most needed.

Please make a separate check for your donation and indicate the designation on your check’s memo line. Put into envelope with your regular offering or send to ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300.

Because of your generous offerings of prayer and financial support, the ELCA walks alongside disaster survivors on their long road to recovery. Thank you!

STATISTICS AS OF MAY 22

DATE	SCS	WORSHIP
5/1	82.....	159
5/8	77.....	172
5/15	63.....	123
5/22	79.....	176
YTD Regular Offering		\$90,791.32
Needed		110,911.60
Difference		(20,120.28)
YTD B.F. Offering		\$28,830.08

2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY WRAP-UP

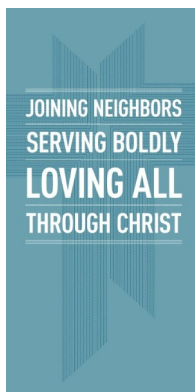
The South Carolina Synod of the ELCA met in Greenville May 19 -21, under the theme of "Deepening Discipleship."

Resolutions and Memorials adopted by the Synod Assembly included:

1. A Resolution to Speak and Act to Prevent Bullying, Harassment and Related Violence,
2. A Resolution to Build Continuity of Care for Young Adults, and
3. A Memorial to the ELCA on Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Rev. Mel Amundsen introduced the Synod' Mission Appeal, Growing in God's Mission, which is intended to bolster the Synod's mission priorities.

The 2012 Synod Assembly will be held next May in Columbia.



CAMP KINARD NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

By **Connie Kramer**

Camp Kinard has recently completed Phase One renovations. To help them provide even better hospitality for those who use the retreat center, they are once again asking us for items that are always needed. If you can provide some of these ongoing needs please put your item(s) in the Ladies Lounge in the Education Building or the room to the right in the Narthex. Be sure to label them for Camp Kinard. We will be collecting these items until June 12. Items needed:

- | | |
|---|---|
| White sheets, fitted and flat (full and twin) | Coffee mugs (new or used) |
| White towels and wash cloths | Hand soap |
| White pillow cases | Tissue boxes |
| Laundry detergent | Toilet paper |
| Pillows | Paper towels |
| Mattress pads (full and twin) | Cleaning supplies for kitchen and bathrooms |
| White bath mats | Blankets for twin and full sized beds |
| Shower curtains (solid colors) | |
| Shower curtain rings | |

Wittenberg Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 10, 2011

Members Present: Bob Wiley (Pres.), Robert Epting, Bill Caughman, Betsy Shealy, Billy Rauton, Ervin Caughman, Dean Rogers, Torry Dickey, Cher Davis, Marti Burns, Erin Thomas, Pastor Sherman, Furman Cantrell (Sec.), Brent Shealy (Treas.), Connie Kramer (Fin. Sec.)

Members Absent: Rebecca Reed

The meeting was **called to order** by President Bob Wiley at 7:03 p.m.

Pastor Sherman gave a brief devotion.

Bill C. gave a brief status report on Cynthia (his daughter).

The Minutes of the March 2011 Council meeting were approved.

M: Robert E.; 2: Billy R.

Pastor Sherman gave his monthly **Pastor's Report**:

Several new members will join WLC in May. These were approved.

M: Pastor; 2: Ervin C.

President's Report: Bob thanked Ervin for installing a mirror at the side entrance to allow Karen to view persons at the entrance before unlocking the door.

Bob Wiley asked for volunteers to attend the S.C Synod Assembly in Greenville on May 19-21 at the Hyatt hotel. He also stated that the budget of \$200.00 for the assembly was not adequate to cover the expenses of the attendees. It was proposed that an additional \$500.00 be added to the budget for this event. The motion was approved. M: Bob; 2: Bill C.

Treasurer's Report: Brent reviewed the Financial Report for March. There were no unusual items noted. Brent noted that the loan balance has been reduced by \$5,000.00 leaving a balance of \$420,000.00 vs. \$508,000.00 at this time last year.

Brent also stated that the Pre-school has \$6,000.00 plus in their checking acct. The P.S will report their financial state to S&F and to Council in the future. The report was approved. M: Robert E.; 2: Bill C.

Financial Secretary's Report: Connie distributed the monthly summary. There was nothing unusual in the report. The report was approved. M: Ervin C.; 2: Bill C.

Pastor Sherman asked if income from the first Sunday lunch, sponsored by P.S., goes through the Treasury. Brent stated that it does and a check is written to the proper source.

Committee Reports:

Property: Ervin C. discussed the erection of a storage building outside the Fellowship Hall back door for storing tables and chairs. The Council members walked to the site, and Ervin described in more detail the building. The cost will be \$6,460.00. This was approved. M: Ervin C.; 2: Bill C.

Ervin also discussed the new signs for the Food Pantry. There will be a large sign at the street and a smaller sign at the rear of the parking area near the entrance. The cost will be \$312.50 and will be charged to the Property Comm. budget. This was approved. M: Ervin C.; 2: Bill C.

Billy R. stated that there will not be coping around grave sites in the new section of the cemetery. Footstones must be flush with the grave.

Brent stated that Bill C. had prepared a list of all HVAC equipment, purchase date and the replacement costs. WLC has \$12,000.00 set aside in this fund.

Other Business:

Several inquiries regarding the possibility of purchasing a bus for WLC were discussed. Meetings are planned with other churches that already have buses for rental possibilities.

Dean R. reported that St. John UMC has a bus and a meeting will be held with them.

Bob W. reported that someone has offered \$35,000.00 toward the purchase of a bus for WLC.

Several requests for using facilities were announced and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Furman Cantrell, secretary

WITTENBERG FAMILY CELEBRATIONS



Happy Birthday!

- 1- Sherie Todd
- 2- Lu Bickley,
Billy Rauton,
Bryan Walker
- 5- Jimmy Banks,
Karla Powell
- 6- Sophie Dickey,
Dorothy Mullins,
Wilson Oxner
- 7- Rachel Young
- 8- Dwayne Black,
Jesse Rauton
- 9- Matthew Summers
- 12- Wyatt Hendrix,
Scott Thomas
- 14- Demarion Brown
- 15- Beth McGill
- 17- Chris Swygert
- 18- Grant McDonald
- 20- Ross Cary
- 21- Walter Shealy
- 24- Evelyn Baronowski
- 27- Lynne Rauton
- 28- Jeffrey Long,
Lan Price

Happy Anniversary!

- Justin & Samantha Trotter
6/3/2006 – 5 years
- Carl & Mary Cook
6/4/1952 – 59 years
- Landis & Sheryl Price
6/6/1976 – 35 years
- Chip & Jennifer Spradley
6/7/1997 – 34 years
- Todd & Chancie Frick
6/7/2009 – 2 years
- William & Anne Shealy
6/8/1962 – 49 years
- Dean & Sybil Ertle
6/17/1949 – 62 years
- Eric & Torry Dickey
6/17/2000 – 11 years
- Courtney & Jennifer McInnis
6/20/1992 – 19 years
- Jeff & Brandee Quarles
6/20/1998 – 13 years
- Ira & Sue Ruff
6/24/1972 – 39 years
- Arthur & Brenda Howard
6/27/1976 – 35 years
- Mike & Linda Almgren
6/27/1986 – 25 years
- Michael & Jennifer Patrick
6/28/1997 – 14 years
- John & Catherine Oxner
6/29/2005 – 6 years

LET US PRAY

MEMBERS:

Marti Burns, Joan Caughman, Dorothy Curran, Jim Curran, Evetta George, Eleanor and Jane Hare, Ed & Leila Hoover, Bucky Johnson, Dannie Kaiser, The Kirby Family, Ramona Langford, Brady & Sue Nichols, Debbie Reynolds, Ralph Riley (husband of Pat Crickenberger Riley), The Family of Dot Ruff, Sue Ruff, Anne Shealy, Walter Shealy, William K. Shealy, Bobbie Smith, Jennifer Spradley, Wills Swygert, Merlyn Watkins, Eva Watson, Benjy Watson

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

John Bedenbaugh (father of Tracy Bedenbaugh), Judy and Doug Benton, The Mother of Debbie Black, Wyatt Boatwright (Lexington 3 student), Patrick Burns (nephew of Marti Burns), Peggy Buzhardt, Ruby Caughman, The Family of Jane Speaks Cochet, The Family of Taylor Cox, Pastor Mitch Evans, Mike Gunter, Audie Jennings (brother-in-law of Wyman & Freida Banks), David Kneece (cousin of Wyman Banks), Ann Lewis, Thelma Lorick (mother of Larry Lorick), Eileen & Jimmy Mitchell, Mike Nichols (son of Brady & Sue Nichols), The Mother of Landis Price, Tobie & Chester Plunkett (in-laws of Debbie Reynolds), Mildred Shealy (mother of Michael Shealy), Kim Smith (daughter of Libby Carswell), The Family of Elsie Speaks, Diane Spradley, Aaron Stewart, Duane Swygert (nephew of Melvin Swygert), The Family of L.G. Whitman, and members of our Armed Forces.

