

The Wittenberg Witness

The Monthly Edition of Wittenberg Lutheran Church's Newsletter

August 2026

Greetings, Wittenberg Family,

I can hardly believe that it is already August. Usually, in August, preachers talk about a subject we usually feel uncomfortable talking about. We talk about money, and, more broadly and more generally, we talk about stewardship. Why we feel uncomfortable talking about money, I really don't know. Balancing budgets and keeping an eye on how much we spend and how much we receive through offerings are parts of the nitty gritty of keeping a church functioning. Perhaps, because our incomes and our giving are so personal, we believe they are things that should not be mentioned. Or, perhaps, many pastors feel they could give more themselves, that it is hard to ask others to give more, too. Whatever the reasons, I think the beginning of any discussion about giving begins with Holy Scripture.

There are many scriptural passages to choose from, but I think Deuteronomy 26:1-11 is a good one to look at. Just like the offering we give in worship, Deuteronomy 26 describes a liturgical act of God's people showing gratitude for God's grace. This liturgical act ends in mission that includes "the aliens who reside among you." In giving our offering in church, we are reminded that we are wandering Arameans like Jacob, who have nothing to be commended for. We are reminded that our life in Christ began with God making the first move of grace. We remember that God delivered us from Egypt, in bondage to the sin of this world and in captivity to death. We remember that God freed us from sin and death for a new life, a life in the promised land of God's divine life and presence. And, with gratitude, we offer our thanks and praise to God in our offerings of our time, talents, and money. In this way, we offer our first fruits to God. These are the best we have to offer; they are what we give before anything else, because nothing can compare to what God has given us in Christ, which is eternal life. And, it is precisely our gifts, the gifts we have received from God, that we give back to Him in worship for the building up of the body of Christ for the sake of doing mission in the world. Our offerings to God are blest and used by God for the work of the Gospel, which is the work of Christ to bring God's love, justice, and life to the world. Far more than just paying the bills, our offerings are changing and impacting lives. They enable us to gather together to learn more about Jesus in our lives, to worship God, and to feel the power and strength of Christ in community, so we are renewed and equipped to continue flourishing throughout the week. In our giving, we are able to feed the hungry at our food pantry and soup kitchen. We are able to help those in need. We are able to help others see the presence of Christ and his love breaking into their lives. So, for all our offerings and self-giving love, I give you and God thanks. And may we continue to generously give our first fruits to the Lord.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Keith



ELCA VISION:

Claimed by God's grace for the sake of the world, we are a new creation through God's living word by the power of the Holy Spirit;

Gathered by God's grace for the sake of the world, we will live among God's faithful people, hear God's word and share Christ's supper;

Sent by God's grace for the sake of the world, we will proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serve all people following the example of our Lord Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the world.

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- Parish Council Reports
- Serving This Month
- Parish Events & Announcements
- Within The Wittenberg Family
- Council Contact Information, and Meeting Minutes
- Church Calendar

Dear Wittenberg Family,

As summer begins to wind down and we look toward a new season, August offers us an opportunity to reflect on God's faithfulness and prepare for the work He has ahead for us. We invite all students, teachers and school staff to join us on Sunday, August 2nd as we will host "Blessing of the Backpacks" at each worship service.



As we enter this new season, I encourage you to stay connected, invite others to join us in worship, and look for ways to serve. I encourage all that do not attend Sunday School to come join us on Sunday mornings. We have classes for all ages!

May God bless you and your family as we begin this new chapter, and may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

In Christ,

Cher Davis
Church Council President

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

GETZ, Keith - *Pastor*
803-607-5956(m)
revgetz@yahoo.com

DAVIS, Cher (2026-2027)
President, Mutual Ministry Chair
803-360-7361
wlccouncilpres@gmail.com

GUERETTE, Michael (2024-2026)
Vice President, Cemetery Chair
803-553-0261 (m)
michaelguerette066@gmail.com

SHEALY, Brent
Treasurer
803-532-9273 (w)
803-429-5198 (m)
bshealy@sc.rr.com
brent.shealy@economyfurniture.com

DORITY, Betsy (2024-2026)
Secretary, Christian Education Chair
803-422-0736 (m)
bets131@gmail.com

KRAMER, Connie
Financial Secretary
803-532-5558 (h)
bgsu72scus@yahoo.com

BANKS, Toshia (2026-2028)
Parish Life Chair
803-687-0188
tbnaks@hotmail.com

BLACK, Debbie (2024-2026)
Preschool Chair
803-413-5692
dblack373@yahoo.com

BURNS, Marti (2026-2028)
Evangelism/Christian Care Chair
803-960-8594
Carolburns703@yahoo.com

DAVIS, Taylor (2025-27)
A/V T Chair, Youth Chair
803-687-1249 (m)
taylorndavis.3@gmail.com

DICKEY, Eric (2026-2028)
Endowment Chair
803-227-9046
ericsdickey@gmail.com

FRICK, Ricky (2025-27)
Social Ministry Co-Chair
803-206-5824 (m)
barryraces24@gmail.com

HENDRIX, Kimberly (2025-27)
Social Ministry Co-Chair
803-413-8779
khendrix75.kh@gmail.com

ST. JEAN, Jimmy (2026-2028)
Stewardship & Finance Chair
803-348-5449
uscauditor@gmail.com

TIFFNER, Patricia (2024-2026)
Worship & Music Chair
803-271-1220
patriciatiffner@gmail.com





SUMMER FUN AT THE PRESCHOOL

July was the most fun month of the summer! We have had visits from the animal shelter and the Lexington County Sheriff's Department therapy dog. We also got to meet a new therapy dog, Rudy who will be coming once a month to read with our students during the school year. Our afterschool students walked to the fire department for a visit and went to Mi Rancho for lunch.

We had an end of the year water day with a water slide donated by Mr. Gregg Long. A huge THANK YOU to him for making our water day over the top! We celebrated the end of summer with a glow party and color run for the entire school.

Financials

Monthly Witness Reporting
as of 6/30/2026

Offering Report		June		YTD
Regular Offering	\$	23,155	\$	147,797
Food Pantry Offering		2,785		23,087
Total Offering to Budgeted Operations	\$	25,940	\$	170,885

Vision 20 + 20 Offering		1,114		3,164
Other Designated Offering/Income	\$	2,404	\$	20,075

Expense Report		June		YTD
Budgeted Expenses	\$	31,676	\$	205,894
Actual Expenses		34,438		240,589
Budget vs. Actual - Over/(Under)	\$	(2,762)	\$	(34,695)

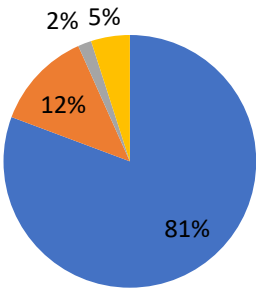
Food Pantry Report		June		YTD
Expenses	\$	6,111	\$	24,190
Balance	\$	22,338		

Soup Kitchen Report		
Balance	\$	8,719

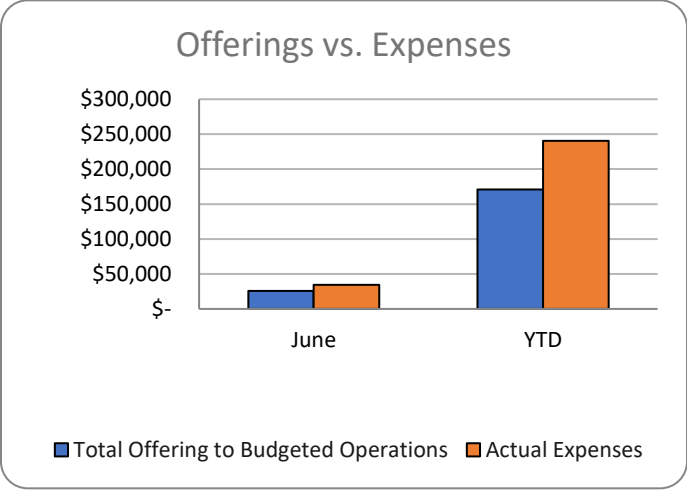
Fund Report	BAL as of 06/26	BAL Last YTD	Vision 20+20 Goal
Cemetery Annuity	\$ 203,883	\$ 189,572	\$ 225,000
Endowment Fund	212,316	187,140	175,000
Vision 20+20 Fund	266,797	252,161	

Preschool Report		June		YTD
Offerings	\$	-	\$	225
Operating Income		24,323		119,790
Expenses		19,733		132,336
Net	\$	4,590	\$	(12,321)

YTD Offering Summary



- Regular Offering
- Food Pantry Offering
- Vision 20+20 Offering
- Other Designated Offering





Serving in the Food Pantry this month:

Saturday, August 1:
Volunteers Needed

Friday, August 7: Volunteers Needed

Saturday, August 8:
Volunteers Needed

Friday, August 14: Rondoll Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, August 15: Marti Burns, Debbie Reynolds

Friday, August 21:
Volunteers Needed

Saturday, August 22:
Volunteers Needed

Friday, August 28: Rondoll Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, August 29:
Volunteers Needed

Serving In Worship This Month:

GREETERS: Todd Long & Brenda Burkett

ALTAR GUILD: Harriet Householder, Jennifer Spradley, Virginia Nichols

USHERS (8:30):
2 Eric Dickey
9 Landis Price
16 Harriet Householder
23 Robert Epting
30 Brian Shealy

USHERS (11:00): Todd Davis, Todd Frick

LAY READER: Ricky Frick

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Jarrod Frick, Ricky Frick

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING: Tom Sawyer

ACOLYTES:
2 Emma Kate Gresham
9 Ella Frick
16 Minnie Lynn Antonovich
23 Mary Dority
30 James Shealy

ALMSBEARER:
2 Kai Trotter
9 Shayla Bedenbaugh
16 Carson Dority
23 Benjamin Barnes
30 Jack Shealy

CRUCIFER:
2 Ansley Gresham
9 Cade Long
16 Skyler Frick
23 Gary Barnes
30 Kate Shealy

NURSERY
2 Jessica Nead
9 Betsy Dority
16 Kayce Shealy
23 Betsy McEwen
30 Sonya Cary

ALTAR FLOWERS:
2 By: Debbie Black
9 By: Kayce & Brian Shealy
16 By: Mary Ann Shealy
23 By: Linda & Michael Guerette
30 By: Sandy Cary

BBW:
2 First Sunday Lunch
9 Brian Shealy
16 Rebecca Dasher
23 Sheila Caughman
30 Last Sunday Breakfast

TELLERS:
2 Toshia Banks, Debbie Black
9 Marti Burns, Cher Davis
16 Taylor Davis, Eric Dickey
23 Betsy Dority, Ricky Frick
30 Michael Guerette, Kim Hendrix

*If for some reason you cannot do the duty you were assigned, please let the church office know ASAP so a substitute can be arranged.
Thank you. 5*

Parish Events & Announcements:

Soup Kitchen: The soup kitchen will be serving on Saturday, **AUGUST 22**, 10:30am - 12n. Please contact Jennifer Spradley or Jennifer Patrick with any questions, donations, or volunteer times.

Coffee and Conversation will take place on Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

Dorcas Quilters: Dorcas Quilters group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00am on the 3rd floor of the educational building. You do not need prior experience with sewing nor quilting to join us.

Lutheran Men: The monthly Lutheran Men meeting will take place on Monday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Noisy Offering: Noisy Offering will take place on the third Sunday of each month (August 16).

Coffee and Conversation will take place each Monday at 9am.

Merry Widows will meet at the church at 10:45am on Tuesday, August 4 to tour the Rawl-Crouch House. Cost is \$5 per person plus lunch afterwards. Please let Patricia Tiffner know if you plan to attend (803-271-1220).

Join us for First Sunday Lunch after 11:00 Worship on August 2. The meal will be sponsored by the Preschool Committee and the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Blessing of the Backpacks will take place during both services on Sunday, August 2.

CIRCLE INFORMATION:

Circle	Date	Time	Place	Leader/Hostess
Morning	August 5	10:00 a.m.	TBD	Sally Sherman
Circle IV	Not meeting			
Circle L	August 3	6:00 p.m.	Mi Rancho	



At Wittenberg Lutheran 2026

Hey, Middle and High School Youth!

You are all invited to join in these activities of faith formation, fun, and service this August. Check it out!

August 22, 9am-12pm – Soup Kitchen Helpers

Youth Faith Formation Activities occur every week in Sunday School @ 9:50am. Confirmation Youth have a complimentary program along with this calendar of fun and service activities.

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Summer Trip Opportunities:

- [NovusWay Camps](#) (Wittenberg pays 50% registration)
- Summer Youth Service & Fun Trip to Coastal SC TBD

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Additional detail will be published about each event as it gets closer. For now, please mark your calendars!!

Update contact information [here](#) or email wittenbergyouth@gmail.com.
Shareable Google Calendar link [here](#).

WITHIN THE WITTENBERG FAMILY



Landis Price	8/7	Alaric Coleman	8/18
Madison Maroney	8/8	Elizabeth Short	8/18
Barrineau Barnes	8/9	Justin Maroney	8/19
Jan Barnes	8/10	Will Long	8/20
Brent Shealy	8/10	Reece Rawls	8/21
Brian Shealy	8/10	Stella Barnes	8/22
Marissa Spradley	8/10	Holland Fulmer	8/22
Betsy Dority	8/11	Nevin Rodgers	8/25
Henrietta Gill	8/11	Ken Amick	8/28
Paula Miller	8/12	Elwanda Lorick	8/28
Sally Long	8/13	Sydnee Patrick	8/31
Rhett Watson	8/14	Joann Wells	8/31
Steve Kaiser	8/16		



Gregory & Betsy Dority	8/6
Brian & Kayce Shealy	8/9
Tripp & Ashley Bouknight	8/14
Robert & Wendy Epting	8/21

LET US PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Helen Dasher	Freida Banks
Debbie Reynolds	Doris Freeze
Jeff Shealy	Sherie Todd
Jenna Rogers	Jarrod Frick
Lavonia Frick	Ernestine Sharpe
Michael Kramer	Robin Watts
Ben Barnes	Mike Nichols
Connie Kramer	

LET US PRAY FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Phil & Carolyn Reuther (*parents of Laura Getz*)
 Rich Viviano (*family of the Sawyers*)
 Travis Trotter (*friend of the Cary family*)
 Natalie Derrick (*step-daughter of Henrietta Gill*)
 The Family of Natalie Long
 Carmen Todd (*mother-in-law of Sherie Todd*)
 Becky & Larry Taylor
 Marie Mitchell (*friend of the Cary family*)
 Charles Kennedy (*friend of the Cary family*)
 Jerry Norris (*friend of the Cary family*)
 Kirby Winstead (*family of the Cary family*)
 Dylan Burns (*nephew of Marti Burns*)
 Halee Church (*friend of Marti Burns*)
 Brenda Eidson (*friend of Betsy Dority*)
 The Long Family
 Jamie Etheredge (*friend of the Cary family*)
 Kent Hendrix (*uncle of Donice Frick*)
 Jack Davis (*father of Todd Davis*)
 Mike & Gaye Hartley (*friends of Brent Shealy*)
 Dana Berry (*niece of Freida Banks*)
 Sandy Miller (*mother of Crissie Kirby*)

ARMED FORCES:

Jon Rogers	Karl Smith
Ross Shealy	Capt. Will Cary
Elijah M. Sherman	Abigail Sherman
Rob Laws	Nathan Rogers
Wesley Dyson	Emily Sherman
Wyatt Hendrix	

WE REMEMBER:

Danny McCullough (*husband of Sonya McCullough, Preschool Staff*)
 Carroll Berry (*brother of Freida Banks*)
 Michael Holley (*cousin of Rachel Young*)
 Lori Norris (*friend of the Cary family*)
 Gavin Ellison (*family of the Frick's*)
 Ruby Taylor (*mother of Jessica Nead*)
 Joyce Surret (*mother of Gregg Long*)
 Edwin McGee (*family of the Cary family*)
 Charlie Long
 Amy Moore (*niece of Freida Banks*)
 Pat Shealy (*cousin of the Banks family*)
 Vera Mae Smith (*friend of the Banks family*)
 Mary Cook

Approved Council Meeting Minutes, July 12, 2026:

Members present: Cher, Marti, Brent, Jimmy, Connie, Betsy, Ricky, Kim, Michael, Pastor Keith, Taylor, Eric, Patricia and Debbie. (absent Betsy, Michael)

I. Cher called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. Devotion – Kim Hendrix; Psalm 30...discussed Wyatt's "God moments" at basic training. Loves getting mail and Sundays because he gets to attend church. Sundays he gets to sleep in till 5AM.

III. Prayer Concerns – Jeff Shealy, Linda Price, Todd Davis's Dad (Jack Davis), Jan Shealy

IV. Pastor's Report – was emailed prior to meeting. Debbie motioned to accept, Marti 2nd.

V. Financial Secretary's Report – was emailed prior to meeting.

VI. Treasurer's Report – was emailed prior to meeting. Eric motioned to accept and Patricia 2nd

VII. President's Report – 7/24 Shealy family using fellowship hall. No background checks this month.

Becky got her gift card for work anniversary. Operations update: Jimmy is going to get trained by

Connie to support Financial Secretary duties. Patricia motioned to accept and Kim 2nd.

VIII. Committee Reports

A/V&T: Taylor Davis – no report

Cemetery: Michael Guerette – no report

Christian Education: Blessing backpacks 8/2, Rally Day 8/30

Endowment: Eric; no report

Evangelism & Christian Care: Marti Burns: Princess for a Day (7/13) 4PM at Food Pantry: all in favor by Council no objections. Taylor motioned to accept and Debbie 2nd

Mutual Ministry: Cher Davis – no report

Parish Life: Toshia Banks – Next event is Fall Apple picking, Old McDonald Fish Camp TBD

Pre-School: Debbie: summer afterschool has 13-14 kids and will end when school starts on Aug 4. Preschool program currently has 2 classes with ~30 children and is looking at options to grow to 4 classes with 60+ children. Growth for preschool classes will need 35SF per student at minimum. Leesville growth projections ~500 families next few years. Preschool has ~\$350,000 on hand and looking at campaign to raise more funds. Committee is looking at possible loan opportunities too. Committee is planning to share recommendations with council in the next few months. The committee was asked to review insurance regulations for preschool bus usage. Jimmy motioned to accept and 2nd by Toshia.

Property: A storm took out power on Monday (7/6) but online services fixed, elevator fuse replacement on the way. Damaged cemetery fence has been repaired but needs to be reinstalled. Committee is getting a quote for carpet for commons area and ADA ramp. Kim motion to accept and Ricky 2nd

Social Ministry: Kim e-mailed report. Ricky reported each box at the food pantry is estimated to cost \$22-23. Taylor motion to accept and Patricia 2nd

Stewardship & Finance: Jimmy: no report (see Treasure report)

Strategic Planning: Cher Davis – no report

Worship & Music: Patricia Tiffner – next meeting 7/14 PM

Youth: Taylor Davis – Summer movies will continue Tuesday (7/14) 10AM with showing of Zootopia and complimentary snacks. Ricky motioned to accept and Toshia 2nd

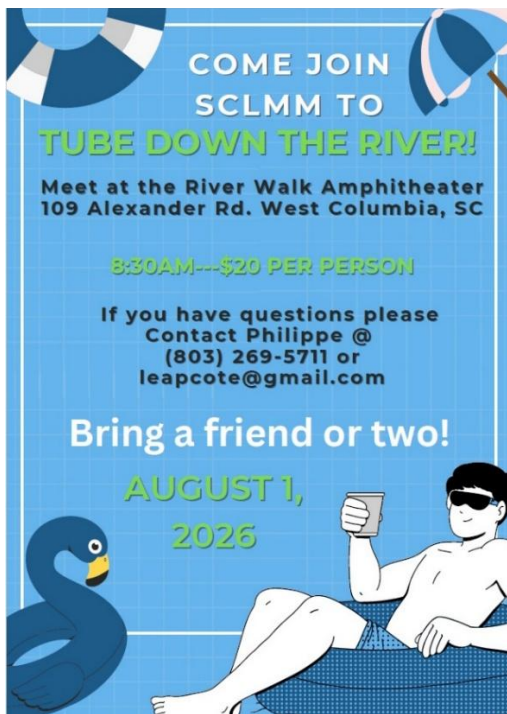
IX. Other New Business: Connie requested Council to please remind everyone to pick up your financial reports in the mailboxes.

X. Old Business: none

XI. We adjourned at 7:45pm. And closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Dickey



HELP NEEDED!

South Carolina Lutheran Men Need You!

The SCLMM Board is in need of a
Secretary and a Vice President!

If you are interested in getting more involved
with Lutheran Men on the State level, we could use you!

Job Descriptions may be found on the web site [sclmm.org](https://www.sclmm.org)
https://www.sclmm.org/index_jobdesc.html
SCLMM Job Descriptions
 or Contact Tom Ramsey at tdrams@charter.net
 or Give me a call 864-304-5107

GAMECOCK LUTHERAN
Alumni & Friends

BBQ DINNER
AUGUST 15TH @ 5:30

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 1416 Broad River Rd. Columbia, SC 29210

FREE EVENT! RSVP Appreciated!

Join us for an evening of togetherness, story-sharing,
 learning more about what's happening in campus ministry,
 and (of course) Pastor Jesse's homecooked BBQ.

There's no cost, but a free will offering
 will be collected to support the
 ministry. Let us know you're coming at
GamecockLutheran.com/bbq
 or by scanning this QR code.



Registration officially open for SCLRC Golf Classic

Join the SCLRC staff on **Thursday, October 1, 2026**, at the beautiful **Ponderosa Country Club (Leesville, SC)** for this "Captain's Choice" fundraiser tournament.

Awards will be presented to winning teams in each flight, in addition to the longest drive and closest to the pin. Registration includes two mulligans, SCLRC prize pack, and a BBQ dinner in the clubhouse following play. A number of great raffle prizes will also be available for individuals to take home.

SCLRC's ministry of hospitality provides holy spaces for groups to strengthen and renew faith, have times of fellowship, and build lasting memories. All proceeds from the tournament will be used to help fund the daily operational costs of each retreat center while benefiting countless individuals all year long! For registration, click [here](#).

August 2026

EARLY SERVICE—8:30 A.M. + SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:50 A.M. + WORSHIP SERVICE - 11:00

26 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:10 AM Last Sunday Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship	27 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation 7:00 PM Lutheran Men	28 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	29 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m.	30	31 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	1 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
2 Blessing of the Backpacks 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 11:00 AM Worship First Sunday Lunch 	3 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation 6:00 PM Circle L	4 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel 10:45 AM Merry Widows	5 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 AM Morning Circle 7:30 PM Choir Practice	6 7:00 PM Executive Committee	7 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	8 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
9 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship 5:00PM Stewardship & Finance 6:00 PM Preschool 7:00 PM Council	10 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation	11 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	12 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m.	13	14 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	15 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
16 Noisy Offering 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship	17 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation	18 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	19 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 AM Dorcas Quilters	20 *Newsletter Deadline	21 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	22 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open 10:30 AM Soup Kitchen 
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Please check our calendar on the WLC website <http://www.wittenberggleesville.org/> for the latest information.

Wittenberg Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 3447
Leesville, SC 29070

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

GATHERED IN BAPTISM + FED BY WORSHIP + SENT OUT AS SERVANTS

Join Us For Worship!

Sunday Morning Worship Times...

Worship - 8:30 or 11:00am

-In person OR

-Live Stream at 11:00 a.m. on our YouTube Channel @WittenbergAV –

Subscribe to our YouTube channel, access YouTube videos on our website

wittenbergleesville.org, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

-Request a recorded copy of the worship service via DVD disc from the

church office. A limited number of portable DVD players are available on

loan if needed.

Contact Us

Pastor: Rev. Keith Getz

For more information contact...

Wittenberg Lutheran Church

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Visit us on the web at:

www.wittenbergleesville.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday... 9am-1pm