

The Wittenberg Witness

The Monthly Edition of Wittenberg Lutheran Church's Newsletter

July 2026

Greetings, Wittenberg Family,

This month, we celebrate the Fourth of July, Independence Day, but what does it actually commemorate. Many would probably say, "The winning of our independence," but this would be wrong. The Revolutionary War or the War of Independence did not actually end until the signing at the Treaty of Paris, on September 3, 1783, in which Great Britain acknowledged the sovereignty and independence of the United States, bringing an end to the war. So what are we actually commemorating on Fourth of July? Well, we are commemorating the adoption of the wording of the Declaration of Independence, on July 4, 1776. Celebrating with bonfires, bell ringing, and fireworks began after the Declaration of Independence was announced. I mention this because too often we have forgotten our history or rely on a historical narrative that others tell us without looking at the actual facts.

We need to remember that history too often has been the narrative of men in power, his-story. Every history is an interpretation of historical facts, many times at the expense of other historical facts. Many books about history tend to be biased, telling the facts from one perspective. Unfortunately, some books of history amount to not much more than propaganda to push a certain agenda or ideology. How can we really know what happened? It seems to me that in order to have a better picture of an historical event, we need to read books from different perspectives by trusted historians (that means not trusting everything you see on Google or watch on YouTube). By looking at different perspectives of the facts, we can have a better idea at what actually happened. It is important that we learn about our history, not only from various people (including the marginalized), so we can get the bigger picture. We live in a day and time of a great deal of misinformation and meta-narratives that oversimplify events in history and the historical human experience. Too often they lead to an idealized notion of a particular group of people and a past way of life. They do nothing to help us learn from our past mistakes, so we can be better people.

I also believe that we live in a day and time, in which knowledge of Holy Scripture and the history of our Church is critical to understanding Christ, God, ourselves, the world, and others. Much like poor historically biased narratives, a poor understanding of the logic of Scripture and what it actually means leads to misconceptions that can weaponize the Bible and be harmful to our walk with Jesus Christ and to the salvation of our souls. How do we know what the Bible says and means? This involves spending time in God's Word, praying daily, worshipping and learning together. In these ways, we will be fed by the Holy Spirit, encounter Jesus Christ, and gain the wisdom to tell the difference about what is true and what is false teaching. As we prepare the grills, open our favorite beverages, and gather with family and friends for the Fourth of July, may we be reminded that true freedom, freedom from sin, death, and the devil's temptations for a real and meaningful life comes only through Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we are set free to give ourselves in love for another. So come to church, where the altar is prepared for the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, the beverage of wine is poured to become the body and blood of Jesus, and we are able to celebrate, we are able to taste and see the Lord is good!

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Serving This Month
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- Within The Wittenberg Family
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Dear Wittenberg Family,

As we enjoy the summertime, I encourage everyone to stay connected through worship, fellowship, and service. Thank you to all who support our church's ministries and outreach efforts. Your time, talents, and dedication help us share God's love with our congregation and community.



May this summer be a time of renewal, joy, and continued growth in faith as we serve Christ together.

Peace,

Cher Davis

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
wlcouncilpres@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 Chari
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

We have kept busy here at the preschool. We have had visits from the animal shelter and the Lexington County Sheriff's Department therapy dog. We have held water day and bike day for the students. The weather has been mild for summer and we have spent a lot of time outside on the playground and exploring around the church grounds. Our older students have gone to the Haynes Auditorium for movie day too!

Financials

**Preschool Financials not available at the time of printing*

Monthly Witness Reporting
as of 5/31/2026

Offering Report	May	YTD
Regular Offering	\$ 26,016	\$ 124,642
Food Pantry Offering	5,723	20,303
Total Offering to Budgeted Operations	\$ 31,739	\$ 144,945

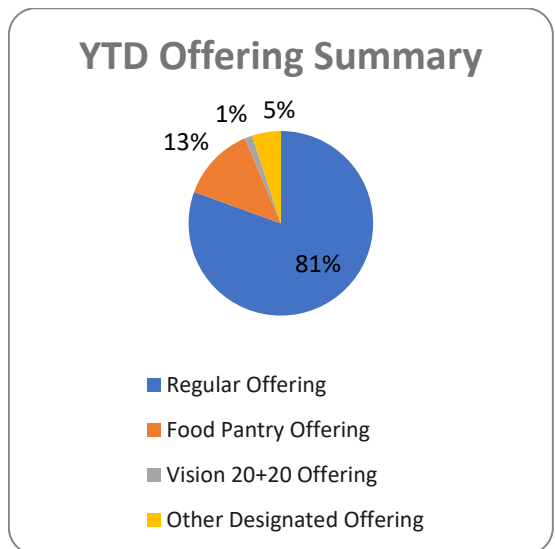
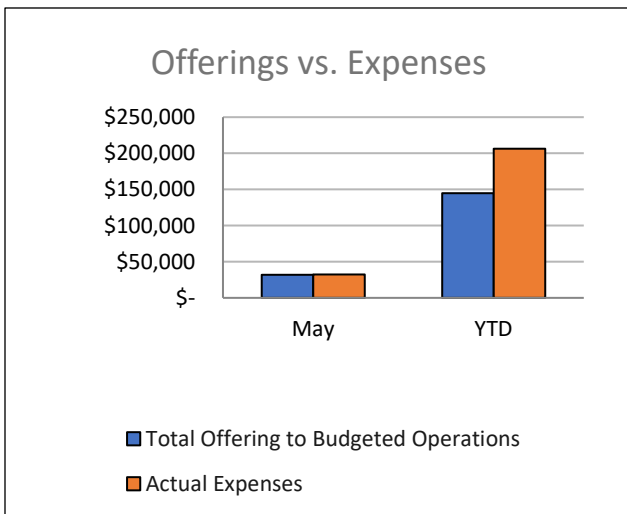
Vision 20 + 20 Offering	150	2,050
Other Designated Offering/Income	\$ 2,583	\$ 17,671

Expense Report	May	YTD
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 39,595	\$ 174,218
Actual Expenses	32,360	206,152
Budget vs. Actual - Over/(Under)	\$ 7,235	\$ (31,934)

Food Pantry Report	May	YTD
Expenses	\$ 3,461	\$ 18,079
Balance	\$ 25,664	

Soup Kitchen Report	
Balance	\$ 7,792

Fund Report	BAL as of 05/26	BAL Last YTD	Vision 20+20 Goal
Cemetery Annuity	\$ 203,883	\$ 189,572	\$ 225,000
Endowment Fund	221,022	181,615	175,000
Vision 20+20 Fund	265,681	251,561	



Serving In Worship This Month:



Serving in the Food Pantry this month:

Friday, July 3: Rondoll
Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, July 4: CLOSED

Friday, July 10: Volunteers
Needed

Saturday, July 11: Volunteers
Needed

Friday, July 17: Rondoll
Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, July 18: Marti
Burns, Debbie Reynolds

Friday, July 24: Volunteers
Needed

Saturday, July 25: Volunteers
Needed

Friday, July 31: Rondoll
Watson, JoAnn Williams

GREETERS: Ricky & Donice Frick

ALTAR GUILD: Robin Taylor,
Debbie Sawyer, Crissie Kirby

USHERS (8:30):

5 Patricia Tiffner
12 Landis Price
19 Harriet Householder
26 Brian Shealy

USHERS (11:00): Mike & Virginia
Nichols

LAY READER: Robert Epting

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Rebecca &
Larry Dasher

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING:
Robert Epting

ACOLYTES:

5 Ella Frick
12 Minnie Lynn Antonovich
19 Mary Dority
26 James Shealy

ALMSBEARER:

5 Kai Trotter
12 Ellie Getz
19 Benjamin Barnes
26 Jack Shealy

CRUCIFER:

5 TBD
12 Jack Bouknight
19 Smith Kirby
26 Susie Reed

NURSERY

5 Kayce Shealy
12 Betsy McEwen
19 Sonya Cary
26 Marti Burns

ALTAR FLOWERS:

5 By: Samantha & Justin
Trotter
12 By: Landis & Sheryl Price
19 By: The Long Family
26 By: Freida Banks & Pam &
Steven Humphries

BBW:

5 First Sunday Lunch
12 Betsy Dority
19 Elwanda Lorick
26 Last Sunday Breakfast

TELLERS:

5 Taylor Davis, Eric Dickey
12 Betsy Dority, Ricky Frick
19 Debbie Black, Kim Hendrix
26 Jimmy St. Jean, Patricia
Tiffner

*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.*

Parish Events & Announcements:

Soup Kitchen: The soup kitchen will be serving on Saturday, **JULY 25**, 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, July 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Noisy Offering: Noisy Offering will take place on the third Sunday of each month (July 19).

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

The Chancel Choir will practice on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 pm.

Becky will be on vacation June 25, 26 and June 29-July 3.

The office will be closed on Friday July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

There will not be a First Sunday Lunch on July 5 due to the July 4 holiday weekend.

CIRCLE INFORMATION:

Circle	Date	Time	Place	Leader/Hostess
Morning	July 1	10:00 a.m.	Home of Sally Sherman	
Circle IV	Not meeting			
Circle L	Not meeting			



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 July. Check it out!

July 25, 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



JULY

BIRTHDAYS

Owen Getz	7/1	Jason Feaster	7/21
Will Caughman	7/2	Ellie Getz	7/21
Summer Lawson	7/3	Gerald Long Sr.	7/21
Bobby Price	7/3	Mary Ann Sullins	7/23
Brent Lawson	7/4	Sonya Cary	7/24
Jack Bouknight	7/6	Otho Shealy	7/24
Tracy Bedenbaugh	7/11	Heyward Barnes	7/25
Shawn Belcher	7/11	Laura Getz	7/25
Kimberly Feaster	7/11	Cambey Roof	7/26
Walter Smith	7/12	Robert Cook II	7/27
Connor Shealy	7/13	Eric Dickey	7/27
Cricket Leaphart	7/14	Michael Reed	7/27
River Rauton	7/14	Robbin Swygert	7/27
Jada Rogers	7/14	Ann Chappell	7/28
Jennifer Spradley	7/16	Dell Crowley	7/28
William Cary	7/17	Cher Davis	7/28
Harlee Siegel	7/18	Debbie Borden	7/29
Brett Spradley	7/20	Jessica Nead	7/30
KD Day	7/21		



JULY

ANNIVERSARIES

Ross & Sonya Cary	7/16
Michael & Betsy Shealy	7/21
Jeff & Sherri Shealy	7/22
Jeffrey & Janice Shealy	7/24
John & Toshia Banks	7/31

LET US PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Helen Dasher
Debbie Reynolds
Jeff Shealy
Jenna Rogers
Lavonia Frick
Otho Shealy
Michael Kramer
Ben Barnes

Freida Banks
Doris Freeze
Sherie Todd
Jarrod Frick
Ernestine Sharpe
Robin Watts

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*)
Ruby Taylor (*mother of Jessica Nead*)
The Family of Natalie Long
Carmen Todd (*mother-in-law of Sherie Todd*)
Rudie Tarver (*step-father of Cher Davis*)
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*)
James Caughman (*nephew of Ervin Caughman*)
Brenda Eidson (*friend of Betsy Dority*)
The Long Family
Jamie Etheredge (*friend of the Cary family*)
Kent Hendrix (*uncle of Donice Frick*)
Danny McCullough (*husband of Sonya McCullough, Preschool Staff*)

ARMED FORCES:

Jon Rogers
Ross Shealy
Elijah M. Sherman
Rob Laws
Wesley Dyson
Wyatt Hendrix

Karl Smith
Capt. Will Cary
Abigail Sherman
Nathan Rogers
Emily Sherman

WE REMEMBER:

Lori Norris (*friend of the Cary family*)
Gavin Ellison (*family of the Frick's*)
Ruby Taylor (*mother of Jessica Nead*)
Joyce Surrent (*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



For the many cards, letters, visits, and other remembrances I received on my 105th birthday, I thank you. It is indeed a blessing to be a member of this caring Christian community.
In Christian love,
Helen Dasher

Dear Wittenberg Family,
Thank you all so much for my work anniversary gift card. It has been such a blessing for the past 8 years to have a job that I love coming to every day. Thank you all for being a blessing in my life and being so thoughtful all year long!
With love and gratitude,
Becky Hughes



Approved Council Meeting Minutes, June 14, 2026:

Members Present: Cher, Marti, Connie, Brent, Ricky, Betsy, Michael, Taylor, Debbie, Jimmy and Eric.

I. Cher called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

II. Eric lead a devotion on living in a community of faith and how we can be the fragrance and knowledge of Jesus.

III. Prayer Concerns – Jeffrey Shealy

IV. Pastor's Report was emailed prior to the meeting. Michael motioned to accept pastor's report as emailed and Taylor seconded.

V. Financial Secretary's Report was emailed prior to the meeting. No further questions for Connie on her report.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Brent reported our checking account has improved. We received a reimbursement check from Preschool for the painting. We paid Gutterman around \$3800 for the completion of their work with the gutter installation. Regular offerings are 4.8% ahead from last year. Endowment Fund ended May at \$221,021.62 which is an increase of \$39,000 over last year. Ricky motioned to accept the Treasurer's report and Marti seconded.

VII. Cher called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

VIII. Eric lead a devotion on living in a community of faith and how we can be the fragrance and knowledge of Jesus.

IX. Prayer Concerns – Jeffrey Shealy


X. Pastor's Report was emailed prior to the meeting. Michael motioned to accept pastor's report as emailed and Taylor seconded.

- XI. Financial Secretary's Report was emailed prior to the meeting. No further questions for Connie on her report.
- XII. Treasurer's Report – Brent reported our checking account has improved. We received a reimbursement check from Preschool for the painting. We paid Gutterman around \$3800 for the completion of their work with the gutter installation. Regular offerings are 4.8% ahead from last year. Endowment Fund ended May at \$221,021.62 which is an increase of \$39,000 over last year. Ricky motioned to accept the Treasurer's report and Marti seconded.
- XIII. President's Report – Cher reported Becky celebrates her work anniversary in June. First Sunday Lunch in July has been cancelled. Eric motioned to accept the Presidents report and Debbie seconded.
- XIV. Committee Reports
- A/V&T:** Taylor – no report
- Cemetery:** Michael reported he took a stroll through the cemetery and had nothing to report. Ricky motioned to accept the Cemetery report and Jimmy seconded.
- Christian Education:** Betsy reported we confirmed 2 confirmands on 5/24. We held Graduation Sunday 6/7 to recognize 8 graduates. We also hosted 1st Sunday Lunch that day. We held a successful VBS 6/7 through 6/10. Thank you to all of those who gave their time, energy and efforts to making it a success! Ricky motioned to accept the Christian Education report and Michael seconded.
- Endowment:** Eric read a thank you note from Lutheridge from their Endowment gift.
- Evangelism & Christian Care:** Marti reported they visited Helen Dasher for her Birthday. Ricky motioned to accept Evangelism & Christian Care report and Taylor seconded.
- Mutual Ministry:** Cher – no report
- Parish Life:** Toshia - no report
- Pre-School:** Debbie reported the study committee met tonight and held much discussion about the state of the Preschool as well as their current and future needs. Marti motioned to accept the Pre-School report and Ricky seconded.
- Property:** Cher reported the AC drains need to be drained. Ervin, Todd and Steven fixed a couple of ceiling tiles. They are getting quotes to repair the fence. All gutters are installed and gutters cleaned out. Eric motioned to accept the Property report and Jimmy seconded.
- Social Ministry:** Ricky reported the food pantry served 279 families and the Soup Kitchen served 150 hot dog plates in May. Eric motioned to accept the Social Ministry report and Jimmy seconded.
- Stewardship & Finance:** Jimmy reported they did not meet this month. He will be training with Connie to be her back up if she is out of town. Ricky motioned to accept the Stewardship & Finance report and Taylor seconded.
- Strategic Planning:** Cher – no report
- Worship & Music:** Patricia – no report
- Youth:** Taylor reported the Youth & KICS will be going to Sweet Swirls 6/21 at 3:00. Ricky motioned to accept the Youth report and Michael seconded.
- IX. Other New Business – Michael will be out of town 7/7 through the end of the month. Debbie will do teller on the 7/19 for Michael. Michael and Linda will be moving by the end of the year.
- XI. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Dority

July 2026

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

28 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:10 AM Last Sunday Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Youth/KICS to Ice Cream Shop	29 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation Becky-vacation	30 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel Becky-vacation	1 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 AM Morning Circle 7:30 PM Choir Becky-vacation	2 Becky-vacation	3 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open Becky-vacation Office closed in observance of July 4th	4 9:00 AM Food Pantry CLOSED 
5 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 11:00 AM Worship First Sunday Lunch canceled	6 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation	7 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	8 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m.	9 Preschool Field Trip 7:00 PM Executive Committee	10 Preschool Field Trip 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	11 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
12 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	13 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation	14 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel 7:00 PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting	15 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. Preschool Field Trip 10:00 AM Dorcas Quilters	16	17 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	18 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
19 Noisy Offering 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship	20 *Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation	21 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	22 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m.	23	24 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	25 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open 10:30 AM Soup Kitchen 
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

Please check our calendar on the WLC website <http://www.wittenbergleesville.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

233 N. Lee St. / PO Box 3447

Leesville, SC 29070

803-532-4636

wittenberg@sc.twbc.com

Visit us on the web at:

www.wittenbergleesville.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday... 9am-1pm