The Wittenberg Witness

The Monthly Edition of Wittenberg Lutheran Church's Newsletter

September 2025

Greetings, Wittenberg family,

In many ways, Jesus' call to take up our cross, to suffer and die for his sake, is so countercultural, so against our emotional conditioning in a postmodern age that it seems impossible. We are taught to avoid suffering at all cost, to seek the creaturely comforts of today. We avoid as much as possible all hardships and struggles. I dare say that we rarely think about death until it comes either as an old friend after a loved one has lived a long life and is ready to pass to the afterlife or as a thief in the night, robbing us of a loved one, whose life is taken too early. But, does this mentality keep us from adventurous discipleship? Do we avoid the trials of suffering that come from following Jesus Christ? Are we too often complacent and indifferent to the injustices in the world? Do we choose not to speak up about Christian virtue and witness to the Gospel message of repentance and liberation from oppression and death, because we fear that we may offend someone? In a culture, in which there is no universal truth, just our own truths, are we willing to speak and live with the conviction that there is an ultimate truth, the Truth of Jesus Christ, who is the origin, purpose, and final goal of all creation? It is interesting that by avoiding even the thought of death, we live in a culture of death. People have become a commodity, in which their worth is based on how much they produce. How much one has or what one does for a living determines their worth.

But the Christian life is a different way to live, a different way to see. It is a way that involves embracing our joys and our sorrows, our sufferings and our pleasures. The Christian way is a journey of adventurous discipleship, in which we risk suffering for the sake of Jesus Christ and his Gospel. It is through our sufferings that our faith is strengthened, character is built, and the hold of this world on us is loosened. It is in tasting the darkness in our lives that we recognize and move toward the light, the light of Jesus Christ, who is with us in suffering and gives us the power to endure, the power to move through suffering to new life. In Jesus Christ, we are able to see that the world and our lives are in the providence of God. We are able to see the beauty of the world and the beauty of our lives. We are able to see the extraordinary transcendence in the ordinary moments of our lives. And, we live with hope that Jesus is drawing all things to himself, renewing all things. We have a powerful message that needs to be shared to the world. The Gospel message is a powerful cure for a world that is hemorrhaging from self-destructive delusion.

In order for us to share this transformative message, we need to be transformed by this message. We do this by coming to Bible study, Sunday school, worship, and through corporate and individual prayer. These are the means of grace that change us into the people of God, so we can have the mind of Christ. During the month of September, I encourage us all to challenge ourselves to make it a habit to come to Sunday school and worship each week and to take a risk by putting ourselves out there in inviting at least two people to church. I am convinced that doing these things will have such an impact on us spiritually, that we will want to continue doing them after the month is over. See you soon.

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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Wittenberg Family

- Council Contact Information, and Meeting Minutes
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Greetings everyone,

I hope you're all doing well and enjoying(?) the odd weather we've had in August.

Let's take a moment to thank everyone involved in Wittenberg's Sunday School program for all they do. We had a great Rally Day last Sunday morning to kick off the new school year (hope you were there to enjoy the "Tom & Otho podcast" and the great children's choir performances) and it's a great reminder of the opportunity that Sunday School can provide – to folks of all ages. If you'd like to connect with a class but you're not sure which one is right for you, please see Pastor Getz and he'll help you find one!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 28. Our very own Brittany Frick will be offering a flu shot clinic before the 11 am service. Bring your insurance card and be ready to roll up your sleeve to stay healthier this winter. Brittany's done this for several years now, and we appreciate this gift of service very much.

Over the past months, a number of us have held conversations regarding a barrier of some type along the side of our cemetery on Frances Street – something to ensure no vehicles are driven onto our property, and something to help frame that portion of the cemetery as families will begin to buy plots in the new section. Discussions have included a simple chain link fence, a classier fence that matches the same style that currently stands along North Lee Street, or perhaps using a mixture of cedar and Leyland cypress trees to form a more natural vertical barrier. Now I'd like to ask for wider input from the congregation. If you'd like to discuss the options, please reach out to me…either at church or via e-mail or phone (listed below). There are pros and cons to each option and I'd love to get a feel for what folks think about each of them.

As we head into the fall, it's time to develop a group of members who want to serve as Church Council members in the coming years. This year we will be looking for four members to serve three-year terms, and one member to complete a vacant two-year term. If you've never served but might be interested, or if you've served again and might be willing to give it another go...great! Please reach out to me or any of our current Council members to volunteer to stand for election, or be open to the possibility if one of us reaches out to you to start a conversation!

As always, feel free to reach out to wlccouncilpres@gmail.com with any questions or ideas you may have for me or our Council members. I hope you and your family will enjoy your Labor Day holiday. See you in church soon!

Respectfully, Andrew

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

HENDRIX, Andrew (2023-25)

President, Stewardship & Finance Co-Chair,
Endowment Chair, Mutual Ministry Co-Chair
803-439-1327
wlccouncilpres@gmail.com

GUERETTE, Michael (2024-2026) Secretary, Cemetery Chair, Property Co-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

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

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

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

DORITY, Betsy (2024-2026) Stewardship & Finance Co-Chair, Mutual Ministry Co-Chair 803-422-0736 (m) bets131@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

MCEWEN, Betsy (2023-25) Christian Education Chair 803-622-9692 betsy.mcewen@gmail.com

NICHOLS, Mike (2023-25)

Property Co-Chair, Evangelism/
Christian Care Co-Chair
803-303-1069

veemee1@icloud.com

TAYLOR, Robin (2023-25) Parish Life Chair 803-530-5244 rptaylor337@gmail.com

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



AUGUST RECAP

PRESCHOOL

Our students have been learning about kindness and how to show that in their classrooms. Each class has a kindness tree where they celebrate their acts of kindness in the classroom

Each student has had the opportunity to share about themselves and their family this month. Learning about one another helps the students to build community within the classroom. I invite you to take a walk down the preschool hallway and see some of our students and their families displayed on their "All About Me" posters!

SQUIRRELS CLASS WORKING ON THEIR MOTOR SKILLS WITH SHAVING CREAM



GETTING CREATIVE AT RECESS WITH ALL THE RAIN WE HAVE HAD



AFTERSCHOOL TAKING ADVANTAGE OF NEW CENTERS





Serving in the Food Pantry this month:

Friday, September 5: Rondoll Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, September 6: Volunteers Needed

Friday, September 12: Volunteers Needed

Saturday, September 13: Debbie Reynolds, Marti Burns

Friday, September 19: Volunteers Needed

Saturday, September 20: Volunteers Needed

Friday, September 26: Rondoll Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, September 27: Volunteers Needed

Serving In Worship This Month:

GREETERS: Robert & Wendy Epting

ALTAR GUILD: Harriet

Householder, Virginia Nichols, Jennifer Spradley, Patricia Tiffner

USHERS (8:30):

7 Chris Taylor 14 Robert Epting

21 Harriet Householder

28 Brian Shealy

USHERS (11:00): Steven Humphries, Tom Sawyer

LAY READER: Michael Kramer

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Crissie Kirby, Virginia Nichols

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING: Brent Shealy

ACOLYTES:

7 Carson Dority 14 James Shealy 21 Mary Dority

28 Emma Kate Gresham

ALMSBEARER:

7 Jack Shealy14 Ellie Getz

21 Shayla Bedenbaugh

28 Ansley Gresham

CRUCIFER:

7 Zane Price
14 Jack Bouknight
21 Graham Watson
28 Wyatt Hendrix

ALTAR FLOWERS:

7 By: Charlie, Todd, & Brenda

14 By: Mary Ann Shealy

21 By: Jimmy & Jennifer St. Jean

28 By: Michael & Betsy Shealy

BBW:

7 Ross & Sonya Cary14 Sally Sherman21 Betsy Dority

28 Last Sunday Breakfast

TELLERS:

7 Robin Taylor, Patricia Tiffner 14 Debbie Black, Taylor Davis 21 Betsy Dority, Ricky Frick 28 Michael Guerette, Andrew 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.

Parish Events & Announcements:

Soup Kitchen: The soup kitchen will be serving on Saturday, **SEPTEMBER 27-** 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, September 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Noisy Offering: Noisy Offering will take place on the third Sunday of each month (September 21).

First Sunday Lunch will take place on September 7 after 11:00 Worship. It will be sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee.

The Food Pantry is in need of children's books of all reading levels. You may leave them in the pantry or narthex. Please contact Wendy Epting if you have any questions- btrfly78@gmail.com.

Weekly Choir rehearsals begin again on September 3 at 7:30 PM each Wednesday.

Handbell rehearsals begin on September 7 at 4:00 PM each Sunday until Christmas.

Confirmation Classes start Sunday, September 7th, during Sunday school. We will meet on the second floor at the end of the hall. This year will be our Theology Year. All students need to bring a Bible to class. Second Year students need to bring notebooks, too. See you soon.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 28. Brittany Frick will be offering a flu shot clinic before the 11 am service. Bring your insurance card and be ready to roll up your sleeve to stay healthier this winter.

Parish Life will be going to see the Christmas Show at the Carolina Opry in Myrtle Beach on November 6 at 1pm. We need at least 15 people to sign up in order to get the cheaper group rate. Please sign up before September 28. The sign-up sheets will be placed back out for you to sign up in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. This will be a day trip. If we have a driver the church bus will be available on a first come, first served basis. Ticket cost for the show is \$35. We will also have the option for brunch before the show or dinner after the show at an additional cost arranged by The Carolina Opry.

CIRCLE INFORMATION:

Circle	Date	Time	Place	Leader/Hostess	
Morning	September 3	10:00 a.m. Hebrews Cafe		Sally Sherman	
Circle IV	September 10	10:00 a.m.		Wendy Epting	
Circle L	September 8	6:00 p.m.	Mi Rancho		

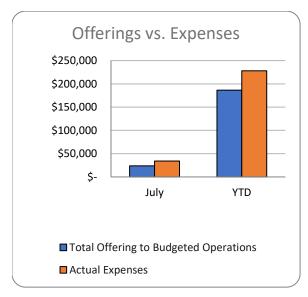
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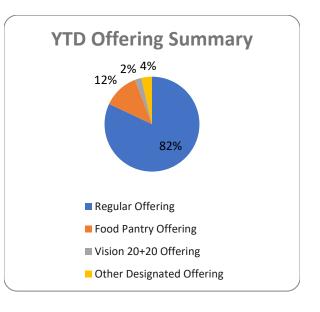
Offering Report		July		YTD		
Regular Offering	\$	21,339	\$	162,447		
Food Pantry Offering	18	2,345		24,073		
Total Offering to Budgeted Operations	\$	23,684	\$	186,520		
Vision 20 + 20 Offering		703		4,433		
Other Designated Offering/Income	\$	899	\$	18,883		
Expense Report		July		YTD		
Budgeted Expenses	\$	29,252	\$	219,390		
Actual Expenses		34,199		228,005		
Budget vs. Actual - Over/(Under)	\$	(4,947)	\$	(8,615)		
Food Pantry Report		July		YTD		
Expenses	\$	3,827	\$	25,639		
Balance	\$	7,560				
Soup Kitchen Report						
Balance	\$	8,064				
Fund Report	BAL	as of 07/25	В	AL Last YTD	Vision	20+20 Goal
Cemetery Annuity	\$	189,572	\$	175,777	\$	225,000
Endowment Fund		190,165		169,013		175,000
Vision 20+20 Fund		253,848		419,977		
Preschool Report		July		YTD		
Offerings	\$	-	\$	100		
Operating Income		11,925		136,248		
Expenses		19,893		138,910		



Thank You for Your Generosity!

Your financial gifts and your gifts of time and talent are the fuel for our ministry here at Wittenberg. Not only do you support our local congregation, but our synod, the ELCA, and the church around the world. Your gifts have global reach. Thank you for making a difference!







At Wittenberg Lutheran September 2025

Hey, Middle and High School Youth! You are all invited to join in these activities of faith formation, fun, and service this fall. Check it out!

Saturday, September 27 - Soup Kitchen Helpers

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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.

VITHIN THE WITTENBERG FAMILY



Patricia Tiffner	9/1	Torry Dickey	9/13
Isaac Barnes	9/2	Jan Long	9/13
Jay Hendrix	9/2	Susie Hendrix	9/14
James Mann	9/4	Scott Hunter	9/17
Dwight Price	9/4	Gregg Long	9/17
Rondoll Watson	9/5	Cooper Cannon	9/20
Will Black	9/6	Russell Rinehart	9/23
Mike Nichols	9/7	Rebecca Dasher	9/24
Hope Cook	9/8	Tom Sawyer	9/24
Betsy McEwen	9/8	Ian Ruff	9/25
Haleigh Brown	9/9	Mary Ann Shealy	9/27
Helen Cook	9/9	Autumn Lawson	9/28
Brittany Frick	9/9	Debbie Reynolds	9/28
Ashley Bouknight	9/10	Sawyer Barnes	9/29
Caroline Getz	9/12	Tate Feaster	9/30
Samantha Maroney	9/12	Shanna Watson	9/30
Baker Roof	9/12		



W.C. & Paula Miller 9/7 Gerrie & Heather Gresham 9/24 Tracy & Dawn Bedenbaugh 9/29

LET US PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Mary Cook Freida Banks Helen Dasher Doris Freeze Marvin Epting Debbie Reynolds Sherie Todd Jeff Shealy Jarrod Frick Charlie Long Ginger Furtick Jenna Rogers Ricky Frick Lavonia Frick Ernestine Sharpe

LET US PRAY FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Tommy Epting (brother of Robert Epting) Elliot Collier (son-in-law of Brenda Burkett) Phil & Carolyn Reuther (parents of Laura Getz) Edwin Watson (brother of Rondoll Watson) Cheryl Bledsoe (friend of Pam Humphries) Dylan Burns (nephew of Marti Burns) Cheri Crouch (sister of Charlie Long) Robin Orillion *(mother of Justin Trotter)* Chester & Tobie Plunkett (in-laws of Debbie Reynolds) Kaye Shirey (friend of Sonya Cary) Kirby Winstead (family of Sonya Cary) Lori Norris (friend of Ross & Sonya Cary) Cooper Baker & Family (friends of Sonya Cary) Marie Wicker (friend of Donice Frick)

ARMED FORCES:

Karl Smith Jon Rogers Capt. Will Cary Ross Shealy Abigail Sherman Elijah M. Sherman Nathan Rogers Rob Laws

Wesley Dyson

WE REMEMBER:

Jackie Frick

Bart Pensa (son-in-law of Eddie & Sarah Holley) Eddie Reep (father of Kim Hendrix) Amy Sawyer Ely (niece of Tom & Debbie Sawyer) Hazel Miller (friend of Debbie Reynolds)

SHEALY HISTORY REUNION will meet on Saturday, September 20th at Union Lutheran Church, Leesville starting about 10:00am. Shealy BBQ tickets will be available for purchase. The speaker will be JR FENNEL from the Lexington Museum. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please call Frances Connelly at 803-360-8484.





Dear Friends,

Thank you for rushing aid to our neighbors in Texas affected by the deadly and destructive flood. Your \$100.00 gift will do so much good for families who are feeling overwhelmed and helpless.

We are so thankful to have you by our side because you truly go above and beyond when disaster strikes, whether at home or abroad. Thank you for always thinking of others and letting your faith guide you.

In faith and gratitude, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard President and CEO, Lutheran World Relief

Approved Council Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2025:

Present were Pastor Keith Getz, Andrew Hendrix, Robin Taylor, Mike Nichols, Connie Kramer, Ricky Frick, Kimberly Hendrix, Debbie Black, Betsy Dority, Taylor Davis, Brent Shealy, Michael Guerette.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Devotion by Robin Taylor; she read scripture from Psalm 139.

Prayer concerns: Ernestine Sharp, Michael Kramer, Todd Frick and family, send a card to Jay Hendrix.

Pastor's Report: Attendance for July 2025 was 99 people per Sunday vs July 2024 was 96; new confirmation classes will start again soon. Motion to accept report by Debbie Black, seconded by Ricky Frick.

Financial Secretary's Report: Donations for July were \$29,381.00; Vision 20/20 YTD is \$4,639.00. Motion to accept report by Mike Nichols, seconded by Ricky Frick.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$24,386.00; actual checking account balance is \$53,286.00; YTD giving is down 5% compared to last year at this time; food pantry surplus is \$7,560.00; soup kitchen surplus is \$8,063.00. Motion to accept report by Ricky Frick, seconded by Debbie Black.

President's Report: First Sunday lunch in September sponsored by Social Ministry; October's sponsored by Preschool and Stewardship and Finance committee; a lease for a new office copier was discussed. Debbie Black motioned to approve a lease from Pollock Copiers and was seconded by Taylor Davis; council voted to approve Pollock Copiers' proposal; motion to accept report by Taylor Davis, seconded by Debbie Black.

A/V&T Report: Taylor Davis mentioned that there were issues with digital equipment for the last few weeks.

Cemetery Committee: no report. Christian Education: no report.

Endowment: no report.

Evangelism & Christian Care: Took 3 meals to shut-ins.

Mutual Ministry: no report.

Parish Life: still planning a trip to Carolina Opry in November this year.

Preschool: We will host first Sunday lunch in October; a \$20 tuition increase began on August 4 across the board; all slots are filled for classes; 2 slots left for after school care; phone service needs to be updated due to safety concerns; Property committee will make recommendation on the drainage of the playground; the parent handbook will be updated for the current year,

Property Committee had an A/C repair last month for \$430.00; the corner post was replaced on the side vard near the office entrance.

Social Ministry: need info. From Kimberly Hendrix.

Stewardship & Finance: scheduled to meet next month to plan for 2026.

Worship & Music met in July; planning to add services on Wednesday evening during Advent; no meals will be served beforehand; they will be advertised to the community; there will be an Altar Guild training on October 20 at 6pm for new folks; we have Kim Hendrix, Sheila Caughman, Harriet Householder, and Jennifer Spradley. We're very glad to have them.

Youth Committee: No report.

Motioned to accept all committees' reports by Mike Nichols, seconded by Ricky Frick. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm with the Lord's Prayer.

September 2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship	Happy Labor Day! Office Closed 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation- canceled	9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	3 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 AM Morning Circle 7:30 PM Choir Practice	4	5 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship First Sunday Lunch sponsored by Social Ministry Committee 4:00 PM Handbells	9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation 6:00 PM Circle L	9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	10 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Circle V 7:30 PM Choir Practice	7:00 pm Executive Committee	9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
14 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Handbells 5:00PMStewardship & Finance 6:00 PM Preschool 7:00 PM Council	9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation	16 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	17 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 AM Dorcas Quilters 7:30 PM Choir Practice	18	19 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	9:00 AM Food Pantry Open 10:00 AM Shealy History Reunion SCLMM Beach Weekend
Noisy Offering 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Handbells	9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation 7:00 PM Lutheran Men Newsletter Deadline Happy First Day of Autumn!	9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	24 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 7:30 PM Choir Practice	25	9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	9:00 AM Food Pantry Open 10:30 AM Soup Kitchen
8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35AM Last Sunday Breakfast Flu shot clinic before 11:00 Worship 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Handbells	9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation	9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 AM Morning Circle . 7:30 PM Choir Practice	2	3 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	9:00 AM Food Pantry Open

Please check our calendar on the WLC website http://www.wittenbergleesville.org/ for the latest information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join Us For Worship!

Worship - 8:30 or 11:00am

Sunday Morning Worship Times...

loan if needed.

-In person **OR**

Wittenberg Lutheran Church For more information contact...

Pastor: Rev. Keith Getz

Contact Us

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803-532-4636

wittenberg@sc.twcbc.com

Visit us on the web at:

www.wittenbergleesville.org

Office Hours:

Monday--Riday... 9am-1pm