

The Wittenberg Witness

The Monthly Edition of Wittenberg Lutheran Church's Newsletter

January 2026

Greetings, Wittenberg family,

Last year, we saw amazing happenings, in which God revealed his almighty presence at Wittenberg. We saw the glory of God in our food pantry and soup kitchen; we saw him in the God moments at preschool chapel. He showed up in all the first luncheons and end of the month breakfasts. In the Sunday school classes, from our youngest to oldest students, Jesus came to us to break open the meaning of the Scriptures so our hearts could be warmed, and the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ came in Holy Communion, "in the breaking of the bread".

How have you seen Jesus show up this past year? I would love to hear your stories. During this Epiphany season and in the new year, I encourage us to be looking at the many ways Jesus breaks into the messiness of our lives to offer his comforting and loving presence. Thank you for the many gifts of love you show Wittenberg. It is your gifts of time, talent, and financial resources that enable Wittenberg to continue to be a powerful presence of God within the church community and in our neighborhood. Thank you for the love and support you have shown me and my family, too. Wittenberg is such a special place where people know they can come to be fed physically and spiritually. It is a place where God shows up and transforms strangers into family.

I look forward to how the Spirit will move within our Wittenberg family this new year, and I ask you to be praying with me about what new ways we can imagine ministry here in this place. What areas of ministry need to be watered with the Spirit to have new life? What new ministries the Spirit might be calling us to create? How can we tell the good old story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those groping for light in the darkness, who don't realize that what they are seeking is to have resurrected life from Emmanuel, "God with us"?

Let us pray,
Good and loving God,

Each morning is the beginning of a new day of creation,
Each day, creation witnesses to Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, and his resurrection as the sun rises in the east.

As day breaks into the night each morning, creation testified to the divine Word, the Divine Light: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it." May we, also, testify to the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ by being His Divine Light to others. I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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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Hello and Happy New Year,

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and the New Year will bring you many blessings! I am honored to have been elected as your new Council President for 2026 and I look forward to working with all of you.

A special thank you to Pastor Keith, Rachel, Randy, Mary Ann and Becky for all their hard work and beautiful Advent and Christmas services.



Thank you to all who have agreed to serve on Council. Please feel free to reach out to me at wlccouncilpres@gmail.com with any ideas, questions or concerns you may have for me or our Council members.

Yours In Christ,
Cher Davis

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

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ST. JEAN, Jimmy (2026-2028)
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Preschool Newsletter

We hope everyone had as much fun as we did celebrating Christmas!

The students enjoyed making many different ornaments and crafts for Christmas. They shared lots of yummy snacks and gifts with each other. They had many opportunities to explore with their five senses through cooking, mixing, making, and exploring new centers.



Learning is fun with center time!

Counting, searching, matching, and celebrating at Christmas time! We even had a candy cane and gingerbread man hunt.





Serving in the Food Pantry this month:

Friday, January 2: Rondoll Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, January 3: Volunteers Needed

Friday, January 9: Volunteers Needed

Saturday, January 10: Volunteers Needed

Friday, January 16: Rondoll Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, January 17: Debbie Reynolds, Marti Burns

Friday, January 23: Volunteers Needed

Saturday, January 24: Volunteers Needed

Friday, January 30: Rondoll Watson, JoAnn Williams

Saturday, January 31: Volunteers Needed

Serving In Worship This Month:

GREETERS: Justin & Samantha Trotter

ALTAR GUILD: Marti Burns, Patricia Tiffner, Kim Hendrix, Sheila Caughman

USHERS (8:30):

4	Chris Taylor
11	Robert Epting
18	Harriet Householder
25	Brian Shealy

USHERS (11:00): Jay Hendrix, Todd Frick

LAY READER: Brian Shealy

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Jerry Price, Patricia Tiffner

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING:

Brian Shealy

ACOLYTES:

4	Emma Kate Gresham
11	Ella Frick
18	Minnie Lynn Antonovich
25	Kai Trotter

ALMSBEARER:

4	Ansley Gresham
11	Skyler Frick
18	Henry Bouknight
25	Kate Shealy

CRUCIFER:

4	Cade Long
11	Smith Kirby
18	TBD
25	Susie Reed

ALTAR FLOWERS:

4	By: Getz Family
11	By: Harriet Householder
18	By: Patricia Tiffner
25	By: Gregory & Betsy Dority

BBW:

4	Debbie Sawyer, Crissie Kirby
11	Ross & Sonya Cary
18	Sally Sherman
25	Last Sunday Breakfast

TELLERS:

4	Toshia Banks, Debbie Black
11	Marti Burns, Cher Davis
18	Taylor Davis, Eric Dickey
25	Betsy Dority, Ricky Frick

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, **JANUARY 24**, 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, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Noisy Offering: Noisy Offering will take place on the third Sunday of each month (January 18)

First Sunday Lunch will take place on January 11 after 11:00 Worship and will be a Potluck.

Coffee and Conversation is canceled for Monday, January 5. The reading for January 12 is John 1:29-42.

The 2026 Flower Calendar still has several dates available! If you have a special date that you would like, be sure to sign up as soon as possible! The cost has increased slightly to \$86 this year. You can also give Becky a call in the office to sign up! (803)532-4636. Please remember to state who you would like to honor or remember when you sign up on the flower calendar.

CIRCLE INFORMATION:

Circle	Date	Time	Place	Leader/Hostess
Morning	January 14	10:00 a.m.	Home of Harriet Householder	Sally Sherman
Circle IV	January 14	11:00 a.m.	Home of Wendy Epting	Pam Humphries
Circle L	January 5	6:00 p.m.	Mi Rancho	

Thank you to the Youth for sponsoring the Senior Christmas Dinner!





At Wittenberg Lutheran January 2026

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, January 24 - 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](#).

WITHIN THE WITTENBERG FAMILY



Connie Kramer	1/1	Linda Guerette	1/16
Ross Shealy	1/1	Josie Price	1/16
Sara Long	1/3	Angela Shealy	1/16
Allison Hunter	1/4	Julie Rogers	1/17
Shayla Bedenbaugh	1/5	Don Price	1/19
Eileen Chapman	1/6	Jack Shealy	1/19
Donice Frick	1/7	Todd Davis	1/20
Bruce Nichols	1/7	Rebecca Leaphart	1/21
Kim Hendrix	1/11	Rebecca Reed	1/24
Teresa Laws	1/11	Ira Ruff Sr.	1/27
John Ruff	1/11	Theo Walker II	1/27
Keith Getz	1/13	Mary Dority	1/28
Jackie Shealy	1/13	Avery Finger	1/31
Amber Fulmer	1/14	Cade Long	1/31

LET US PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS:

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

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*)
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*)
Casey Adams (*cousin of the Frick families*)
Rebecca Kearse (*friend of Mike & Virginia Nichols*)
Michael Hayes (*son-in-law of Henrietta Gill*)
Mary Fore (*sister of Pastor Lisa Eisenhower*)
Don Cloud (*son of Mary Moak*)
Pat Griffith (*friend of Robin Taylor*)
Joe Lewis (*cousin of Becky Hughes*)
Edwin McGee (*uncle of Sonya Cary*)
Charles Kennedy (*son of Carlisle and Brook Kennedy*)
Wayne Waring (*brother of Linda Guerette*)
The Fincher Family (*friends of the Dashers*)
Amber Morelli (*granddaughter of Becky Taylor*)
Dr. Virginia Summerall
Bobby & Don Wiseman (*friends of Ann Nichols*)
Vancella Gantt (*friend of the Dority's and Shealy's*)
Calvin Benson (*brother of Toshia Banks*)
Donna Padgett (*friend of Sonya Cary*)

ARMED FORCES:

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

WE REMEMBER:

Marvin Epting
Jackie Frick
Bart Pensa (*son-in-law of Eddie & Sarah Holley*)

Approved Council Meeting Minutes, December 14, 2025:

Present were Taylor Davis, Michael Guerette, Betsy McEwen, Andrew Hendrix, Mike Nichols, Robin Taylor, Debbie Black, Ricky Frick, Kim Hendrix, Patricia Tiffner, Connie Kramer, Brent Shealy, Pastor Keith, Toshia Banks, Marti Burns, Eric Dickey, Cher Davis, Jimmy St-Jean.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Devotion by Ricky F. Talked about the significance of "The Manger".

Prayers & concerns: Mary Cook was just released from the hospital; Freida Banks is coming home on Tuesday; sent a sympathy card to Robert Epting on the passing of his dad; Michael Kramer still dealing with some health issues.

Pastor's report: attendance for November 2024 & 2025 is the same at 110 for in person and digital viewing, the Advent services are well attended this year, Pastor will be on vacation from 12-29 thru 1-10-2026.

Motion to approve report by Debbie Black, seconded by Ricky Frick.

Financial Secretary's report: Total donations for November was \$60,973.48, Vision 20/20 YTD donation is \$6,845.20. Motion to approve report by Betsy, seconded by Mike.

Treasurer's report: South State checking balance on 11-30-25 is \$74,856.27, Food Pantry Surplus is \$18,567.15, Soup Kitchen Surplus is \$8,204.25, Hare Reserve is \$28,475.00, Actual Checking balance is \$103,331.27. Motion to accept report by Betsy McEwen, seconded by Ricky Frick.

President's report: January's Sunday lunch will be on 1-11-2026; it will be a Potluck lunch; the "Fill the Fridge" was a large success with community involvement. Motion to approve report by Ricky Frick, seconded by Robin Taylor.

AV/T: no report.

Cemetery: no report.

Christian Education: We are in the process of getting ready for the Christmas Eve 5:30 service; we have had 20 children in the last 2 weeks who will be participating in acting out the gospel for Christmas Eve; the children will also be playing the bells and singing.

Endowment: no report.

Evangelism & Christian Care: no report.

Mutual Ministry: no report.

Pre-school: no report.

Parish Life: no report.

Property: In November the motor was replace on the Parsonage's unit. We also have 2 estimates for some painting church's buildings; the company selected is "No Worries Painting & Pressure Washing". Motion to approve estimate by Betsy McEwen, seconded by Patricia Tiffner; the total cost is \$20,815.20; the Church is responsible for \$13,175.20 and the Preschool is responsible for \$7,640.00; Debbie Black will present this to their council for their approval.

Social Ministry: The food pantry served 662 families in November, included those who received turkeys and holiday meal boxes during the November 22 "Fill the Fridge". Hitachi donated \$13,000.00 toward this event. The soup kitchen did not serve in November due to Thanksgiving; they donated to the food pantry instead. They will resume meal service in December. The Food Pantry Advent calendar was placed in the narthex. A report on the food donations for November will be included in the December report.

Stewardship & Finance: no report.

Worship & Music: Advent services are doing well; the Christmas Eve services are being prepared; the last Sunday of the year will be a regular Sunday with breakfast, Sunday school and early service, the 11am service will be lessons and carols. The next week, 1st Sunday Pastor Schafer will preside both services.

Poinsettias will be delivered on December 20th; no time has been set yet for the removal of the Chrismon tree. We will meet again in January 2026.

Youth: will provide breakfast on Sunday morning after Christmas.

Motion to approve all committees reports by Debbie Black, seconded by Kim Hendrix.

The Executive Committee Members are President Cher Davis, VP Michael Guerette and Secretary Betsy Dority, Motion to approve voted members by Debbie Black, seconded by Ricky Frick.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm with the Lord's Prayer.



The family of Marvin Epting thanks the congregation for the many Prayers, cards and letters, hugs, food and other acts of kindness shown to us during the time of passing of our dad. He lived a long fruitful life and dearly loved Wittenberg. That love has been returned back to him by this congregation many times over during this time. God Bless you all.

Installation of New Council Members and Officers will take place on Sunday, January 11 at both services. New members include Toshia Banks, Marti Burns, Cher Davis, Eric Dickey, and Jimmy St. Jean. Officers for 2026 are: Cher Davis-President; Michael Guerette-Vice-President; Secretary-Betsy Dority. Congratulations and thank you for serving!

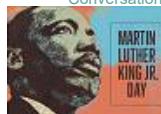


Dear Wittenberg Family,
Thank you so much for the generous bonus and many gifts given to me for Christmas. I consider myself so lucky to have two wonderful church families in my life! You all have been so welcoming and kind to me over the past seven years. I hope that you all had a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

With love and gratitude,
Becky

January 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:10 AM Last Sunday Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship-Lessons and Carols	29 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation-canceled Pastor Keith-vacation	30 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel-canceled Pastor Keith -vacation Becky-vacation	31 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. Choir Practice-canceled Pastor Keith-vacation Becky-vacation	1 Office Closed Happy New Year! 	2 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open Pastor Keith-vacation	3 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open Pastor Keith-vacation
4 Earl Schafer, supply 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship Pastor Keith-vacation	5 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation-canceled Pastor Keith-vacation 6:00 PM Circle L	6 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel-canceled Pastor Keith-vacation	7 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. Pastor Keith-vacation Choir Practice-canceled	8 7:00 pm Executive Committee Pastor Keith-vacation	9 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open Pastor Keith-vacation	10 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open Pastor Keith-vacation
11 Installation of Council 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship First Sunday Lunch Potluck 7:00 PM Council	12 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation	13 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	14 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 AM Morning Circle 11:00 AM Circle IV 7:30 PM Choir Practice	15	16 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	17 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
18 Noisy Offering 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:35 AM BBW 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Handbells	19 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation 	20 *Newsletter Deadline 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	21 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 10:00 AM Dorcas Quilters 7:30 PM Choir Practice	22	23 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	24 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open 10:30 AM Soup Kitchen 
25 8:30 AM Worship 9:30AM Sunday School Opening 10:10 AM Last Sunday Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship	26 9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation 7:00 PM Lutheran Men	27 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel	28 Bulletin Deadline 10 a.m. 7:30 PM Choir Practice	29	30 9:00 AM Food Pantry Open	31 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

Join Us For Worship!

Worship - 8:30 or 11:00am

Sunday Morning Worship Times...

For more information contact...

Wittenberg Lutheran Church
233 N. Lee St. / PO Box 3447
Leesville, SC 29070
803-532-4636

Pastor: Rev. Keith Getz

Wittenberg@sc.wcbc.com

Visit us on the web at:
www.wittenbergleesville.org

Wittenberg - 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.

Monday-Friday... 9am-1pm

Office Hours:

Wittenberg@sc.wcbc.com

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