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"Notes from the Castle Church Door"

July 2017

The 2017 season of Wittenberg English Ministry began on April 19 with Director Bob Flohrs serving as pastor for the first week. We have had many special services along with the 5 regular services each week. For this 500th Reformation Anniversary year, we have added a 20 minute devotional service in the Castle Church on Mondays at noon. We have also been blessed to have several choirs from U.S. Universities and churches add their music to our worship services. What a joy for them to sing in these historic German churches!



Quotes from some of our worshipers

"Our whole experience in Wittenberg has been simply amazing: history, art, beauty, and especially spiritually invigorating. Thank you, W-E-M."

"We are with friends from four countries - USA, Canada, Australia, and Luxemburg. Thank you for welcoming our group to your worship."

"The worship was a highlight of our trip. We prayed for continued growth of the English Ministry in Wittenberg."

"My husband and I are here from Australia. This was just a spiritual and lovely service, we decided we're attending tomorrow's too."

"Thank you for your hospitality and the opportunity to worship in English. Blessings on your ongoing ministry."

"The opportunity to worship made our trip worth the six months of planning."

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION APRIL THROUGH JUNE, 2017

Service	Location	Attendance Range	Total for all Services	Ave. Attendance, April 18-June 30
Monday, 12:00– 12:20	Castle Church	18-110	490	54
Wednesday, 3:00 p.m.	Town Church Sacristy	10-87	374	34
Thursday, 3:00 p.m.	Castle Church	19-96	555	50
Friday, 3:00 p.m.	Sacristy & Kapelle	6-32	224	20
Saturday, 5:00-6 p.m.	Town or Castle Church	55-350	1387	138
Special Services (7) (other than regular)	Various locations		237	34
TOTAL Apr. 18-June 30 (52 services)			3267	63

Just as a comparison, here are the total attendance figures for the WHOLE SEASON for some past years:

2016 – 3261 2015 – 2416 2014 – 2174 2013 – 2078 2010 – 2665 2000 – 3044

(2010 and 2000 are years when the Passion Play was presented in Oberammergau, Germany)

We are very thankful that we have been able to share the Gospel of Jesus with this many people!

OUR SCHEDULE FOR THIS SEASON

Mondays – A 20-minute devotional service in the Castle Church

Wednesdays – A 30-minute chapel service in the Sacristy of the City Church

Thursdays – A 30-minute Chapel service in the Castle Church

Fridays – A 30-minute service in the old Kapelle (Chapel) outside the City Church

Saturdays – A full hour worship service in either the Castle Church or City Church

Some services will continue into **mid-November**. Check our website for dates/times.



Thoughts from our Deputy Directors Don and Cheryl Klein

Panorama, by the artist Asisi, is a huge circular depiction of life in 16th Century Lutherstadt-Wittenberg. It is a 20' high assemblage of computer graphics, art, and photography in Wittenberg. Special lighting effects produce a 24 hour day at the time of Martin Luther, specifically near the Castle Church.

Present day (2017) Wittenberg is also a panorama of New Testament Bible verses, specifically 3 verses. Pilgrims, travelers, tourists, and local German citizens create a sense of Matt 28:19 (Great Commission: "Go into all the world"), Acts 2:17 (God says "I will pour out my Spirit on all people") and Rev. 7:9 (a great multitude ...from every nation, tribe, people, and language).

The 1517-2017 500th Anniversary of the birth of the Protestant Reformation brings people from many nations, many tribes, and many languages to Wittenberg.



Frankenmuth, MI Group at the Luther Statue in the Square



Worshiping in the Castle Church

THANK
YOU

We want to thank ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS who make this ministry possible, including those who have designated their **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** to WEM. Through June, we have received \$3820 from 39 donations through Thrivent.

For updated information on Wittenberg go to www.lutherstadt-wittenberg.de

LIKE us on [Facebook](#) - Wittenberg English Ministry (Lots of pictures!)

Three ways are available to **financially support** WEM, a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization.

- 1) **Make checks payable** to “Wittenberg English Ministry” and send them to: Rev. Robert Flohrs, 104 Jefferson Avenue, Locust Grove VA 22508 (A tax receipt will be mailed to you)
- 2) **Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars** - www.thrivent.com and log in, then in the top menu bar click on “My Thrivent”
- 3) **Designate** a free-will offering for Wittenberg English Ministry in your congregation

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Martin Luther wrote: “*From the beginning of my Reformation I have asked God to send me neither dreams, nor visions, nor angels, but to give me the right understanding of His Word, the Holy Scriptures; for as long as I have God's Word, I know that I am walking in His way and that I shall not fall into any error or delusion.*”

J. Theodore Mueller, trans, *Luther's Commentary on Genesis, Vol. II*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1958).

The above quote reminds me of the overriding purpose of Wittenberg English Ministry which is to lift up God's Holy Word and tell the people who worship with us of Jesus Christ and His dying and sacrificial love for all people. While the WEM preachers deliver the Good News, it is the Holy Spirit who will capture the hearts and souls of people.

2017 is a landmark year in the Protestant Church. WEM has been blessed with wonderful preachers this year as is the case every year. Over 3200 worshipers have attended the services through June. At this point it is more than any other year in the history of Wittenberg English Ministry. We praise God for the privilege and honor to be a part of such an historic year.

Our pastors and Deputy Directors have worked tirelessly to provide the opportunities to preach and to worship. We are blessed with choirs, congregations, groups and individuals from all over the world who have made the pilgrimage to Lutherstadt Wittenberg.

If you have been to Wittenberg this year perhaps you have seen the **Bible Tower** which is at the main train station. It is scheduled to be dismantled in September of this year. It is a shame that it will be taken down before the final Reformation celebration. After all, Luther cherished Holy Scripture! There is a movement to keep the Bible Tower up through Reformation. Here is a link about the Bible Tower. <https://r2017.org/en/en/welcome> If you are interested in helping to keep the Bible Tower upright please write to Wolfgang Praetorius - wolfgang.praetorius@web.de for information.

