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“Notes from the Castle Church Door” **June 2018**

Our 2018 worship season – in the 501st year of the Reformation – began in late April. At times the Altstadt of Lutherstadt Wittenberg seemed like a ghost town in comparison to 2017. But visitors to Wittenberg anticipate that overflow crowds, like we experienced in 2017, would not be an issue and they are correct! In some cases it has been where “2 or 3 are gathered”. No matter the size we are privileged to host worship services so that the WEM 2018 pastors can proclaim Christ crucified.



WEM Annual Board Meeting Highlights

Last March the WEM Board of Directors met at *St. Paul Lutheran School* in Concordia Mo. We welcomed David and Kristin Burki, new deputy directors, from Overland Park Kansas. They served from mid-May to late June. Following the Burki’s are Tim Reaman, Beth Schnabel and Don/Cheryl Klein who each serve six weeks.



The campus of St. Paul Lutheran, a college-prep school, about 50 miles east of Kansas City, Mo.



WEM deputy directors at the 2018 board meeting. From left, Tim Reaman, Elizabeth Schnabel, Kristin Burki, David Burki, Jack Pfitzer, Cheryl Klein, Robert Flohrs, Don Klein.

The board reviewed the 2017 WEM worship season that brought a record-breaking number of visitors worshipping with us during the event-filled 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Nearly 10,000 guests filled the churches of Martin Luther – more than three times the previous highest attendance that we have experienced in WEM’s 21 years of bringing English-speaking worship to Lutherstadt Wittenberg.



Many times in 2017 WEM worship experienced a record-breaking number of visitors.

Pictured: Martin Luther’s Town Church or the Stadtkirche where Luther preached more than 2,000 times.

At the board meeting the **new worship schedule for 2018** was confirmed:

Wednesdays, 3:00-3:30 – Devotional service in the old Kapelle (Chapel) next to St Mary’s (The Town Church)

Thursdays, 3:00-3:30 – Devotional service in the Castle Church

Fridays – 12:00 - 12:20 – Devotional service in the Castle Church **AND**, a second Friday service, 3:00-3:30 in the Kapelle (Chapel) next to the Town Church

Saturdays – Full hour worship service in either the Castle Church or Town Church

NEW WEM WEBSITE FOR 2018

WEM began the 2018 worship season with a new-look easy-to-navigate website. Visit our web address often for our listing of this year’s pastors, our worship schedule, photos from Lutherstadt Wittenberg, board members’ names and bios, the latest issue of “Notes from the Castle Church Door” and an archive of past issues, contact information, and much more. www.wittenbergenglishministry.com Do you know someone planning a trip to Luther Country? Tell them to go to our website to learn about our ministry and see our schedule. Special thanks to Kristin Brogaard of NEUdesign company who created the engaging and user-friendly new website for WEM.

Also, stay social with WEM by liking and following us on Facebook – photos and highlights of the current season are updated weekly. [www.Facebook.com/wittenbergenglishministry](https://www.facebook.com/wittenbergenglishministry)

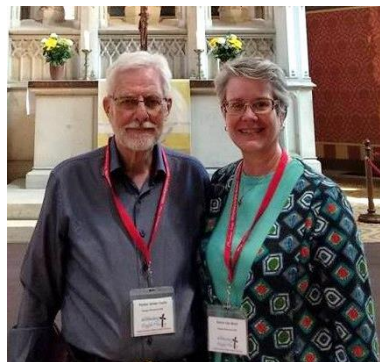
Photos from WEM 2018



WEM Executive Director, Pastor Robert Flohrs, at the WEM booth in February’s Best Practices in Ministry conference at Phoenix, Arizona’s Christ Church Lutheran where more than 2,000 participants attend each February.



The first Saturday evening worship service of the 2018 season in the Town Church. There were about 65 people from Sweden, Denmark and the USA.

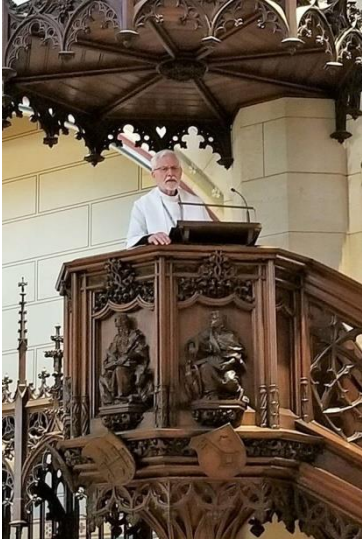


Serving two weeks in May were Pastor James Fuchs, retired, and Karen Van Wert of Savage Minnesota.



Karen Van Wert played the bell tower and hand bells at some of Pastor Fuchs’ services. On the keyboard is Sarah Herzer, one of the organists at the Castle Church. *Click below to listen to and view Karen and Sarah’s music.*

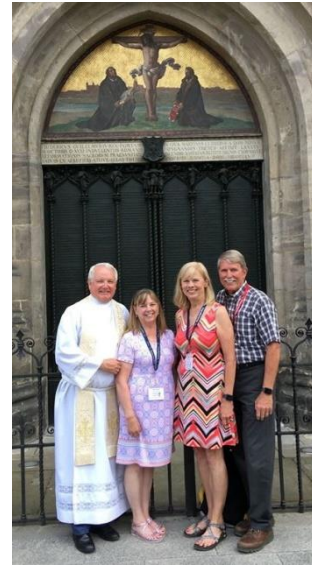
<https://www.facebook.com/wittenbergenglishministry/videos/1581896818599307/>



Pastor James Fuchs preaching at the Castle Church.



Pastor John Hohe from Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Powell, OH served the last two weeks of May.



Pastor Hohe, his wife Nancy, and WEM Deputy Directors Kristin and David Burki at the "Doors of the 95 Theses."



Each June Wittenberg celebrates Hochzeit, the annual wedding celebration of Martin Luther and Katharina von Bora.

Pictured with the Burki's at the Lord Mayor's Hochzeit reception are the Lord Mayor of Wittenberg, Torsten Zugehör, and Pastor Don Hinchey and his wife Margaret.



WEM pastors in June (both retired) were the Rev. Lynn Podoll pictured on the left with his wife Klara from Rantoul, Ill; and Rev. Mark Scott and his wife Karen from Newberry, SC. Rev. Scott is a member of the WEM board of directors.



In June WEM welcomed the Luther College Nodric Choir at our service in the Castle Church.

Click below to hear the voices of the 75 students, singing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" with the congregation.

<https://www.facebook.com/wittenbergenglishministry/videos/1608869432568712/>



Each Thursday evening in Lutherstadt Wittenberg the WEM pastors, their family, and deputy director join visitors and Wittenberg residents for a "stammtisch" at a local restaurant. Stammtisch is an "open table" community event. German residents enjoy it as an opportunity to practice their English. The WEM reps like it because, well, what's not to like about Essen und Trinken?



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 \$3,653 from 25 donations through Thrivent.

For updated information on WEM go to www.wittenbergenGLISHministry.com; for information on Lutherstadt 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". Choose Wittenberg English Ministry from recipients list.
- 3) **Designate** a free-will offering for Wittenberg English Ministry in your congregation.

For more information about Wittenberg English Ministry:

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www.wittenbergenGLISHministry.com

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