

Wittenberg English Ministry

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"Notes from the Castle Church Door" Summer 2019

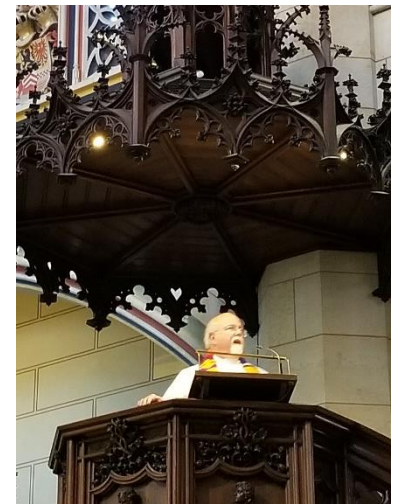


Our local newspaper headline in Fredericksburg, Virginia, said **"Sunday has been cancelled: Scorcher grips East Coast."** While it was good to not have outdoor activities in warm and humid weather, let us hope that worship was not cancelled. Whatever is going on in our lives, we have the privilege to celebrate the spiritual warmth of hearing the comforting message of Christ crucified. (photo - Town Church worshippers)



Wittenberg English Ministry (WEM) in 2019 is hosting worship 4 times per week. We have been fortunate to not have had worship cancelled ☺.

In May it was a joy to host Pastor Hank Simon (right) and his wife Dr Mary Manz Simon for two weeks. They brought their love of Jesus and warmth to all whom they met during their time in Wittenberg. Hank told me this anecdote regarding a conversation he had with someone who joined us in worship. *"It has been my privilege and honor to serve with WEM three times. But the most unusual comment came this past May from a non-Lutheran Christian after a devotional service, "I'm glad your message mentioned Jesus. I was worried about getting just history." "Oh, no," I said, "we Lutherans use every opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus." That's what WEM is all about!"* Thank you, Hank, for summing up the ministry WEM has been blessed to be a part of in



Lutherstadt Wittenberg since 1997.



This photo is of Jerry and Karen Markin from Quartz Hill, California, as well as Cheryl and Don Klein (right), from Newkirk, Oklahoma. Jerry and Karen were "rookie" deputy directors this year. They did an awesome job of serving and connecting to the people of Wittenberg and were wonderful hosts to the visiting pastors. Thanks Jerry and Karen.

Some of Jerry and Karen's reflections on their six weeks in Lutherstadt Wittenberg:

1. Worshipping with Christians from all over the world and sharing a common faith through hearing of the Word and singing - especially "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" - A Mighty Fortress is Our God!
2. Talking with people that share common connections with former churches, schools, and our past.
3. Germans love festivals! Flower Festival, Children's Festival, and the biggest one was the Hochzeit Festival - the 25th year Wittenberg has celebrated the marriage of Martin Luther and Katharina von Bora! A highlight was dressing in costumes from the 1500's and being invited to a special event that included meeting the Lord Mayor, the former Lord Mayor, and this year's "Martin" and "Katharina" who were officially married!

After Karen and Jerry finished their six weeks, our veterans, Don and Cheryl Klein, took over. They too are such a blessing to WEM and have become friends with so many people in Wittenberg. They serve with such a servant's heart!!



Serving the last two weeks of July as the WEM pastor is Pastor Mark McCrory and his family, who live in Scottsdale, Arizona. So nice to see a family enjoying their time in Wittenberg.

Left to right: Dottie Neuf (Oma), Megan McCrory, Mark McCrory
Will McCrory, Christi McCrory, Carrie Neuf (Christi's sister).

Pastor McCrory said, "we are having the time of our life, and I even got to preach in the pulpit of the Castle Church!!!"

"What an honor it was to serve as the Pastor in Residence for this amazing ministry. Meeting people from all over the globe, worshipping with them, and being surrounded by the history in Wittenberg was truly both a gift and life changing." Pastor Grace Gravelle, Cologne, Minnesota



From Pastor Lewis Busch of Victorville, California –
"Serving where Martin Luther served and preaching where Luther preached was a great privilege and, undoubtedly, a highlight of my ministry career. But, while I will long remember my time in Wittenberg, my most treasured memories will be of the opportunities I had to worship with fellow Christians from around the globe. Gathering in God's name, singing his praise and rejoicing in the good news of God in Christ Jesus was uplifting and inspiring. It was an honor to be part of Wittenberg English Ministry and I am extremely appreciative of the opportunity I had to serve."



If you or anyone you know are going to be in Wittenberg between now and October 31, 2019, we will be having services every Wednesday at 12:00 in the Chapel next to the Town Church, Thursday at 3:00 pm in the Castle Church, Friday at 12:00 pm in the Castle Church, and Saturday at 5:00 pm in either the Town or Castle Church (look for signs in Wittenberg or check at the Information Center).



We want to thank ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS who make this ministry possible, including those who have designated their **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** to WEM. This year we have received \$2,164 from 24 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 or emailed 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:

robert.flohrs@gmail.com

www.wittenbergenGLISHministry.com

www.Facebook.com/wittenbergenGLISHministry

We are now on Instagram!

Contact Bob Flohrs to schedule him or any deputy director to speak at your church or organization.

