

# November Sermons/Scriptures

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## ● November 3, 2024

### All Saint's Day

*Morning Worship Service and Holy Communion*

*Sermon: United in Death & Resurrection*

OT Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

Epistle Lesson: Romans 6:1-14

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12

## ● November 10, 2024

### Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

*Morning Worship Service*

*Sermon: Do We Live Under the Law?*

OT Lesson: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Epistle Lesson: Romans 7:1-12

Gospel Lesson: Mark 12:38-44

## ● November 17, 2024

### Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

*Morning Worship Service*

*Sermon: What a Wretch I Am!*

OT Lesson: Daniel 12:1-3

Epistle Lesson: Romans 7:13-25

Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:1-13

## ● November 24, 2024

### Christ the King Sunday

*Morning Worship Service*

*Sermon: The Law of the Spirit & Sin*

OT Lesson: Isaiah 51:4-6

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:17

Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

## ● November 27, 2024

### Thanksgiving Eve

*Evening Worship Service*

*Sermon: We are Thankful!*

OT Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 4:6-20

Gospel Lesson: Luke 17:11-19



***This story was in our daily devotional a while back. It is so very true, I'd like to share it – even though some of you may remember reading it long ago:***

*There was a young man who took his little daughter to the dentist because she had a small cavity that needed attention.*

*Daddy stood nearby as she sat nervously in the dentist's chair.*

*The VERY SECOND that drill started, even though it was that quiet slow speed one they use on kids, she immediately darted out of that chair..... refusing to return.*

*That compassionate dentist merely turned to the dad and told HIM to get into the chair.*

*Then he asked the little girl if she would like to sit on daddy's lap. To which she was more than willing.*

*The procedure continued in comfort as daddy held her in his arms while the dentist fixed that little cavity.*

The picture that story puts in my mind reminds me that we, the weak and not so brave humans, are like that little girl and want to refuse to experience certain situation, however easy or rough it may be.

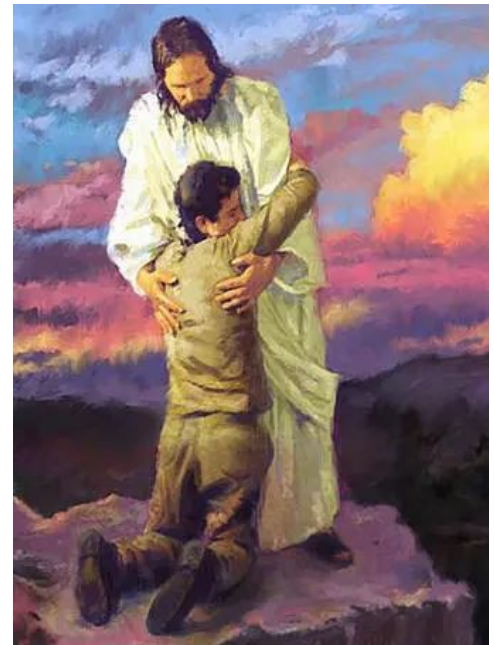
But rest assured, we can just lean into our Heavenly Father's loving and compassionate arms and He will help us make it through these days.

We have SO MANY trials and challenges in life, but our loving Lord God is always here, right beside us to be sure we can stand up and proceed with our lives.

Keeping our focus on Jesus will turn any loss into gain.

Remember John 3:16 that we all have heard and likely can recite it – ***For God so loved the world (that's us people) that he gave His only begotten Son (that's Jesus, our savior, born of Mary) that whosoever (again that's all of us) believeth in Him (that is, repent and be baptized) should not perish, but have everlasting life. (we will live forever in a new body in heaven)***

Submitted by Greg Flugum







# HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE



[www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com)

**October 2024**

## **Building Relationships, Building Momentum**

### **Please Pray**

for Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry to grow in community identity around biblical studies and prayer,

for increased trust in God's Word and promises,

for opportunity to build lasting and purposeful relationships, especially with those we have met recently and our whole international scholarly community,

for the faculty, staff, and students involved in the work of the University of Missouri Hospitals and Clinics, which is more open to Pastor Spotts than it has been in the past,

that the Lord would use our current participants to bring more people they know into our fellowship and to trust in Jesus.

that the church congregations of The AALC will thrive and grow together,

that God's peace and truth will reign in the public square.

**Thanks be to God – many of the above prayer requests are showing signs that the Lord is working in our community!**

As we've been studying Matthew's Gospel in our Wednesday Lunch and Learn sessions, it's striking me more than ever before that Christianity is built on relationships. Some of the relational dynamics we see in Matthew are based on his miraculous provision for essential human needs. People who have received food in his miracles of multiplying bread and fish keep following Jesus around. Those who have received healing at his hand often continue to follow Jesus, but they are also busy telling others what Jesus has done for them. Jesus' teaching has a polarizing effect. Some hear, understand, and believe. Some hear, understand, and reject Jesus. Some hear and don't have a clue what Jesus is talking about.

We have some of the same dynamics in campus ministry. Granted, I haven't yet had an event where food is miraculously multiplied to feed a large number of people. And we don't have any records of people being healed of physical maladies through our work. But there are a lot of other relational dynamics at work. Some of the people we've met over the past six weeks or so have become good friends with others, as well as with some who have come into our lives in prior years. There's an increasing hunger among our participants for the Bible discussions and opportunities to pray together. Increasingly, people have been asking for help getting to church services





## Did You Know?

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is not planting a permanent church congregation.

We are a mission outreach of The AALC to college communities.

Pastor Spotts is a called and ordained pastor of The AALC.

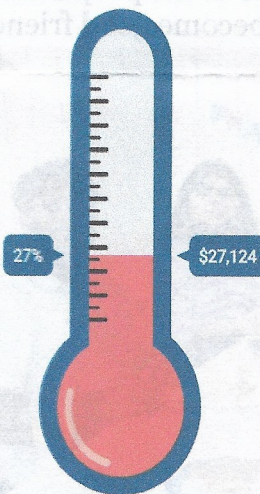
Pastor Spotts is not on faculty or staff of any of the colleges to which he ministers.

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is committed to providing real live, face-to-face, pastoral care to students, faculty, staff, and administration, as well as their families.

The work of Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry mostly reaches to international scholars and their families. Most have very little prior knowledge of Christianity.

We depend on your prayers and financial support.

GOAL: \$100,000



or for ways to involve themselves in local church congregations.

Those who have been following Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry for several years realize these have been among our primary goals for a very long time. The amazing thing is that we have no idea why the dynamic is changing now to move people into local churches and to build fellowship around Scripture. All I can do is give honor to the Holy Spirit and note that these developments are closely related to the ways I've been asking people to pray.

We don't know what the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of some of our participants. But we know that He is the Lord of all, and that he works to draw people to God the Father through Christ the Son. Whether we're eating together, studying and praying together, or joining in worship together, we trust the Lord is building His Church!



## Wittenberg Door Financial Update

Thanks to all our generous supporters! With about 75% of the year gone, our budget is only about 27% met. Please help us reach our long-term goal of being able to call and support a full-time, permanent chaplain for this Christ-centered work. If you know of others who would be able to join in support (including prayer), please let us know.

I hope you'll think about joining those people in the Wittenberg Door 300! If we have 300 regular donors, our calculation says we are very likely to have a budget adequate to sustain this work in the long run.

The Lord has blessed us with the ability to accomplish many things for His kingdom, as we pray that His kingdom would come on earth as it does in heaven.

As you consider your giving, I urge you to think of what it means to open a door into the heart and life of a young family who need the hope of life in Christ!



## *They Did Not Become this Way Overnight*

*This is a little different, but today I felt I should tell a story and what I learned in the moment. I still need to remind myself of it, even today, but it was a valuable lesson for me.*

I have worked many jobs in the past. It took me many years to realize that God had set in my heart a job such as what I am doing now. One of my previous jobs was a postal worker. I would start at 6.30 in the morning, sort out the letters and small parcels for my run of around 1,000 delivery points, and jump on the motorbike to deliver. In Australia, small motorbikes (postie bikes) were the normal way that postal workers would deliver mail, until only recently. As I was sorting my run out, one morning, I could hear a robust conversation among my colleagues about one of our fellow posties, I will call her Jennifer. (Not her real name.)

Jennifer was a hard woman. Not hateful, just very negative and very hard to please. If you were within earshot of her you would hear the day's diatribe on who had wronged her on that particular day, what had happened to her car the night before, and even stories about how terrible her cat was. She focused heavily on the negative things in her life and it strongly affected how she saw herself, and how others saw her too. She was often abrasive and the office seemed to be affected dramatically by an atmosphere of negativity around her.

What was interesting... Jennifer didn't seem mean, just very honest. Her negative focus clearly filtered what she saw in life and she was very open about sharing it with whoever was around her. When I was hearing the conversation about Jennifer, something came to me and I jumped into the conversation with one line that shifted the tone dramatically. "You know, Jennifer didn't become Jennifer overnight." Everyone stopped, and nodded, and carried on the conversation in a much different way. Even those who disliked her acknowledged that she had a pretty hard life. She was in her 50s, on her third marriage – her first two ended up in heartbreak. A bad relationship with her kids, and she had a hard childhood too. She had a long time of hard luck and she saw herself as something that attracted it. Hardship had layered upon hardship so much that she embodied the negativity, and many people found it hard to like her. I instantly saw the moment when people stopped looking at the negativity and saw her as a person – the atmosphere changed... at least for a while.

I can't say that I left that job as close friends with Jennifer... She was quite guarded and hard to befriend. We were always quite amicable – and on more than one occasion we had some good chats about perspective and negativity. While I couldn't bring much change in her life in the short time that I worked with her, I did see a change in my own life. It's easy to dismiss a negative person as hard to be with, and not count them worthy of our time or effort. When I valued her and empathized with her journey, I found myself acting on the value I saw in her life.

I'm not saying that we should all try to be good friends with every hard person we meet – there are plenty of verses that actually warn against befriending angry people. I am also not saying that we are to be subject to abuse ourselves, or need to agree with everything they say about us, themselves, or even their worldview. But, everyone has value: we are all sons and daughters of God. If we take a moment to see their value, and not just their abrasive exterior, we can find ourselves giving them the respect due to them. Perhaps we can help people find their value again. Christ is the greatest healer – not just of physical or spiritual trauma, but He can also bring healing to emotional trauma too.

I encourage you to think of the abrasive people around you and consider the ways their life has been impacted by pain and grief. I'm sure we have all met a 'Jennifer', although I am not sure I've always been as diligent as I could have been in humanizing them through their pain. Also, do you find yourself being abrasive more than you would like to admit? Are there things in your own life that you carry with you – that make you angry? Find someone who loves God that can speak with you. Even consider seeing someone professionally... Some scars don't heal on their own. I hope that encourages you today.

Christmas is fast approaching and it can be difficult to find a good, wholesome gift for children. Focus on the Family publishes magazines that keep on giving every month, not just Christmas day.

If you have or know children between the ages of 3 through the teen years, check out the following:

### Focus on the Family Clubhouse Jr.

Empower children to grow strong in the Lord



Get ready to unlock the wonders of *Focus on the Family Clubhouse Jr.* magazine. Designed for little ones ages 3 to 7, this delightful magazine brings biblical values to life through fun crafts, exciting games, fascinating tales, and more! With big pictures, easy-to-read writing, and character-building content, we're here to give children a strong spiritual foundation.

### Focus on the Family Clubhouse

Strengthen their faith while instilling Christian values



Embark on an adventure with *Focus on the Family Clubhouse* magazine, designed for boys and girls ages 8 to 12. Every month, they'll dive into a world of captivating activities, engaging articles, and inspiring stories that capture their imagination and nurture their faith in God. Brace yourselves for their delight as they receive their very own magazine and cherish the faith-building content it delivers.

### Brio

Brio is more than just a magazine- it's a trusted resource.

Navigating the teen years can be challenging, but *Brio* magazine is here to help. Designed specifically for teen girls, *Brio* delivers the content they want to read, from entertainment and health tips to beauty ideas. Every issue is packed with interactive faith activities, journaling pages, and insightful articles addressing the realities of today's world.



\*For more information on multiple topics or to order go to <http://Focusonthefamily.com/>

## **Announcing the AALC National Youth Conference**

Theme: Resilient Philippians 1:27

Who's invited: All youth entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
through High school 2025 graduates

When: July 14-28 2025

Where: YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO

For more information see Pastor Bob

November 14<sup>th</sup>  
the quilters will  
meet in honor and  
remembrance of  
Sandy Smith.  
All are welcome.  
Potluck lunch.

# November Volunteers

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10

17

24

27

<b>Communion:</b>	Don R				
<b>Reader:</b>	Brandon	Jack	Sue	Don	
<b>Greeters</b>	Steve/Jan	Marty	Matt/Diane	Joel/Bert	
<b>Ushers</b>	Brandon/Diesel.....				
<b>Sound</b>	Matt	Greg	Brandon	Steve	Don
<b>Computer</b>	Dave	Rachel	Donna	Dave	Rachel
<b>Acolyte</b>	Zade	Kazra	Cooper	Ella	McKenna
<b>Custodians</b>	Donna/Jeff.....				
<b>Pianist</b>	Val	Sheryl	Val	Sheryl	Val

★ If you find that you have been scheduled for a ministry time that you are unable to serve, please find a replacement and let pastor know. Thank you!

# NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Bday: Kayla Dontje
<b>3</b> Communion Sunday Greeters: Steve/Jan Reader: Brandon Acolyte: Zade *Packing party during SS Griefshare- 2pm	<b>4</b> Bday: Ruth Sunne	<b>5</b> Bdays: Matt Swanson Wes Holland	<b>6</b> Confirmation- 4:30pm Bday: Ashley Keel	<b>7</b> Bday: Sarah Keel	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Greeter: Marty Reader: Jack Acolyte: Kazra	<b>11</b> Veterans Day Bday: Levi Stensrud	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Confirmation- 4:30pm	<b>14</b> Quilting- 10am Bday: Kyle Elbert	<b>15</b> Bday: Val Johanson	<b>16</b> Bday: Elsie Felland
<b>17</b> Greeters: Matt/Diane Reader: Sue Acolyte: Cooper Griefshare- 2pm	<b>18</b> OCC Dropoff Week Begins	<b>19</b> Women's Bible Study- 2pm	<b>20</b> Confirmation- 4:30pm	<b>21</b> Bday: Bill Keel	<b>22</b> Bday: Pastor Bob	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Greeters: Joel/Bert Reader: Don Acolyte: Ella	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Thanksgiving Eve Service- 6:30pm Acolyte: McKenna Bdays: Marian Lenz Laurel Yost	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving Bday: Tony Gray	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Bday: Jill Peine