

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY
2009 REPORT TO THE SUPPORTING SYNODS

Wittenberg University – Our Mission: “Reflecting its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg challenges students to become responsible global citizens, to discover their callings, and to lead personal, professional, and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion, and integrity.”

Since 1845 Wittenberg University has been educating people to lives of service throughout the world. Today, more than 1,800 students attend. We are pleased to highlight some of the people and events of particular importance to our supporting ELCA synods.

- Dr. Donald Busarow will finish his distinguished 28-year career as director of the Wittenberg University choir in 2010. During his tenure as the fourth choir director in its 80-year history, the choir has performed before thousands throughout the United States. Dr. Busarow’s dedication to presenting the finest sacred music in the Lutheran tradition has made the Wittenberg choir one of the most recognized in the nation. In addition to directing the choir, Dr. Busarow is internationally known as an organist and composer of church and organ music.
- Dan Jacob, senior from Strongsville, OH, has been named an ELCA Fund for Theological Education Undergraduate Fellow. He is the third Wittenberg student to receive this national award.
- Mae Helen Jackson, a second-year student from Chicago, has been named as one of 15 ELCA delegates to the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany. She is one of only three ELCA youth delegates to that assembly
- Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop of Northeastern Ohio Synod of ELCA, was preacher at the 2009 Festival Choral Eucharist for Reformation service in Weaver Chapel that also featured the Wittenberg Choir, Handbell Choir and Wittenberg Singers.
- Reverend Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity by the Board of Directors of Wittenberg University. Bishop Hanson received the honorary degree at the spring commencement on campus.
- In August 2009, Wittenberg welcomed the 21 new Martin Luther Scholar Award recipients to campus. The recipients come from eight states and represent some of the truly outstanding young Lutheran scholars. This unique award is available to a limited number of students who meet the following criteria: member of a Lutheran congregation, 3.5 cumulative GPA, and nomination from their pastor.
- Common Ground, a new umbrella organization for all Christian ministries, is being formed on campus under the leadership of Rev. Rachel Sandum Tune, one of Wittenberg’s campus pastors. The goal of this new organization is to assist in building relationships among the eight Christian campus ministry organizations.
- Bob White, Director of Church Relations, presented a talk entitled “Effective Youth Ministry: Four things you need to know” to youth workers in the Northeastern Synod. He also trains youth workers at the ELCA Youth Ministry Network in teen workshops on Advanced Relationships.
- Wittenberg participated in the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Representatives included students and staff from admission, student development and church relations. The event was truly transformative for the 36,000 attendees.
- Blair Hall, home of Wittenberg University’s nationally accredited education department, is undergoing a major renovation that is part of the restoration of the historic heart of the beautiful Wittenberg campus. The \$6 million renovation is scheduled to be completed for the 2010 academic year.

These are but a few of the truly significant items of interest. If you want to see more, please visit our Web site at www.wittenberg.edu.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support of Wittenberg University. The rich heritage of our relationship with the Lutheran Church continues to inform our vocation, mission and ministry.

We welcome all to visit our beautiful campus, tour the facilities and participate in the many opportunities of educational speakers, worship and music services, and athletic events. Please call the Office of Church Relations at (937) 327-7411 for more information.