



SYNOCDICAL REPORT - SPRING 2020

Office of the University Pastors, Wittenberg University

Firmly rooted in its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg University continues to embrace its mission and values as it 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. Even amidst a pandemic-disrupted semester, our community has come together in inspiring ways. Since March we have witnessed our faculty transform their coursework and classrooms into innovative online formats, we have seen alumni, faculty, and staff produce a record-breaking Commit to Witt fundraiser, and our whole community has found creative ways to stay connected from our living rooms and home offices while also reaching out to prospective and future Tigers. Though the Covid-19 response looms large in our minds, the 2019-20 Wittenberg story is marked by other distinguished developments and moments.

Wittenberg's study-abroad programs in Costa Rica and in our sister city of Wittenberg, Germany, remain popular opportunities for immersive learning and for our students to grow as global citizens. Additionally, Wittenberg was blessed this year to host a student from Malaysia and a student from Liberia as ELCA Women Leaders. These women are taking classes and taking part in extracurricular activities while working toward degrees that will help them continue to serve as leaders around the globe.

Our Campus Cupboard—a food pantry for students—entered its second year of operation. Faculty and staff have enthusiastically embraced this effort to alleviate food insecurity through donations and education, while students are increasingly utilizing the cupboard's offerings and sharing the news about its ministry.

This year also found the campus community welcoming Gilbert Meilaender, author, theologian and the Senior Research Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University and the Paul Ramsey Fellow at the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, for the annual Wittenberg Series-sponsored Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Sauer Symposium.

Lastly, Wittenberg's new fully restored and renovated Health, Wellness & Athletics Complex was officially dedicated during Homecoming Weekend 2019. The complex's centerpiece, the 135,000-square-foot Steemer indoor practice facility, has already emerged as a gathering place for students, members of Springfield, and visitors to campus alike.