

Wittenberg 2017 Pre-Travel Information

English version

The Wittenberg 2017 gathering is almost upon us! Praise the Lord! We are very excited about your participation in this historic gathering.

The purpose of this email is to provide you with everything you need to know for traveling to Wittenberg & participating in the Wittenberg 2017 gathering. If you still have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@wittenberg2017.us ...

There are 2 attachments referenced below:

- The **full schedule** is available in PDF form on a button at the top of the web page <http://www.wittenberg2017.us/2017---the-500th-anniversary.html> ... and because the schedule is subject to change, the file name will be dated so you can know that you have the latest version
- The **map with all 3 locations** is attached as an image, and is also available in PDF form from <http://www.wittenberg2017.us/2017---the-500th-anniversary.html>

Three Locations – Leucorea, Stadthaus, Hoffnungkirche

It is important to realize that we have 3 different locations for the gathering. If you look at the attached map, you will see:

- **Location #1: Leucorea (red)**
Address: Collegienstrasse 62, 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany
The Leucorea (Conference Center) will be for registration during the late afternoon / early evening of Wednesday, Nov. 1. It will also be where we meet for Session #1, on the night of November 1.
- **Location #2: Stadthaus (blue)**
Address: Mauerstrasse 18, 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany
The Stadthaus (Convention Center) is our main meeting place (except for the first night). All sessions except Session #1 are in the Stadthaus.
- **Location #3: Hoffnungkirche (purple / maroon)**
Address: Fleischerstrasse 11, 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany
The Hoffnungkirche (Hope Church) is where the night prayer will be. From 10 pm each night, to 7 am the next morning, teams will maintain a "Night Watch". You are not only welcome to go, we recommend attending at least

one night watch prayer time ... there's nothing like prayer in the middle of the night!

These three locations are marked on the program (see below), using the same color coding.

Getting to Wittenberg

Most who are flying in from outside Germany are coming to the Berlin Tegel airport (airport code TXL). You will want to take the TXL JetExpressBus from the airport to the Hauptbahnhof (Hbf = Central Train Station). You can ask at the information desks in the airport for where to catch the TXL JetExpressBus.

Once at the main train station, it is easy to buy tickets to Wittenberg. Look for the DeutscheBahn (DB) offices right inside each main entrance, go in and tell the clerk you want to get a train ticket to Wittenberg Lutherstadt (*not* Wittenberge, which is a different city!). There are trains about every hour, so you don't need to buy a ticket ahead of time. It's about an hour journey, depending on whether you take a slower RE train or faster, more expensive ICE. The trains are very safe, comfortable, and have places to stow your luggage. The one thing that you need to be aware of when you buy your ticket is which platform (gleis) your train leaves from ... make sure to find the platform at least 10 minutes before the train is scheduled to depart, because they generally leave right on time.

If you fly into Frankfurt, it's pretty much the same process, except that the train station is in the airport, so you don't have to take a bus. Just follow the signs for the train station, then buy your ticket. From Frankfurt, it's a much longer journey, so you definitely want the ICE if you can afford it. And you will probably have to change at least once – for changes, you have to be aware of which platform your next train will leave from, sometimes you only have a few minutes to get to the platform.

One more tip regarding train travel in Germany – when getting on or off the train, you have to push the button to open the doors, they don't open automatically.

Arrival in Wittenberg on Nov. 1

When you arrive, you will probably want to go straight to your hotel. The train station is pretty close to hotels and our meeting sites, so if you are adventurous and have a good rolling suitcase you can walk. Just use Google to create a walking map ahead of time, print it out, and follow it. If you're not that adventurous, you can always take a taxi and show them the name / address of the hotel, and they will take you there.

After dropping your luggage at the hotel, you can come to the Leucorea for registration starting at 4 pm. See the attached map for the location of the Leucorea

– it is within a pleasant 15-minute walk of any hotel located in the main city center area.

The gathering starts at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evening, and does not have a dinner break after it starts, so you may want to grab a bite to eat before 6 pm.

An emergency phone number if you need it is ...

+49-176-70074609 (Germany)

... please try not to call if you can ask people around you for help (e.g. don't call if you are looking for the bus stop in the airport!)

Arrival in Wittenberg after Nov. 1

If you arrive in Wittenberg on Nov. 2 or later, you should come to the Stadthaus rather than the Leucorea ... see the attached map.

Meals

We do not have group meals, except for the Shabbat celebration (which isn't really a meal, just bread and wine). You are on your own for each meal. Usually hotels include breakfast in the price of the room. At registration, we will have a list of restaurants close by, in various price ranges.

Walkability

Wittenberg is a highly walkable city. You should plan on walking everywhere. The city center is very safe day or night.

Weatherwise, be aware that the latitude of Wittenberg is farther north than Nova Scotia! So before you pack, check the weather forecast for Berlin (easier to find than Wittenberg) and ensure you have enough warm clothes (& hat or umbrella). Right now it is showing 54°/44° for the high/low temperatures on Nov. 1 in Berlin.

Note also that it will also be getting dark around 4:30 pm, because the clocks change in Europe on October 28 ... so you may want to bring a small flashlight.

See this web site for some good information for tourists visiting Wittenberg:
<https://lutherstadt-wittenberg.de/en/>

Money

You can bring euros from the US, most banks will sell them to you if you order them about a week ahead of time. You can also generally use your US debit card to withdraw euros from ATMs in Germany, as long as you put a travel notification on your card (check with your bank to ensure that your card has this capability). And most restaurants / shops will accept US credit cards, especially if they have chips in them.

Program

The latest version of the full program for the gathering is available on the web site <http://www.wittenberg2017.us/2017---the-500th-anniversary.html>. Once you download it, you will notice that there are four different locations indicated by different colors (which match the colors on the map):

Red = Leucorea (Registration & Session 1 on November 1)

Blue = Stadthaus (All other Sessions, Nov. 2-5)

Purple / Maroon = Hoffnungkirche (Night Prayer Room)

Green = In the Streets (Processions / Prayer Walks)

You will also see that the schedule runs 24/7, around the clock. This means you can't do everything! We encourage you to pace yourself and trust that God will lead you. Here are some guidelines to planning your days:

- We request that you plan attend every one of the 10 Sessions and the Shabbat celebration.
- We suggest that you plan to be present for 2-3 times of worship & prayer per day. You can wander in and out – you don't have to attend the full prayer time. For example, you might come half-way through one, stay through Bridge Prayer, and for the second half of the next one. We also encourage you to go to night / early-morning prayer in the Hoffnungkirche at least once – there is something so special about seeking God in the watches of the night.
- We encourage you to be intentional about arranging conversations with new friends – some of the most important work of the gathering will take place over meals or on walks through Wittenberg!

Worship & Prayer Times

On the program you will see many times labeled "Worship & Prayer". These will be led by various teams from around Europe and the USA. Some are Catholic, other are Protestant. They are all teams that are experienced in leading prayer sessions where either they are alone praying, or there are many people in the room joining them. You can feel free to come and go in any session (though we warn you ... the prayer room can be addictive!).

When you are there, you can engage in any number of ways – joining in with the praise songs, dancing, following the instructions of the leaders for praying out loud on various topics, etc. Or you might feel like being more private – being quiet, reading your bible, journaling, drawing. All of these are allowed! The only thing that is asked is that you don't interrupt the leaders or the flow of the prayer session – for example, don't shout out a loud prayer when everyone else is singing a quiet worship song!

Often the Lord speaks to individuals during these worship & prayer times. Most of these messages are private – like a love letter from God to you. However, if you feel you have received a prophetic message from the Lord that may be for the larger group, please find a leader at an appropriate time to submit it to them. They will decide whether or not to bring it forward publicly.

Bridge Prayer

You will also notice on the program that there are several times labeled Bridge Prayer, usually between two times of worship and prayer. This is a special prayer liturgy that we have been using in the Wittenberg 2017 gatherings. You will receive or have available in the prayer room printed guides for each Bridge Prayer. (These are only in English, except where there are prayers that are also in German.) They are also available for download at <http://www.wittenberg2017.us/2017---the-500th-anniversary.html>.

The US team has created a web page <http://www.wittenberg2017.us/bridge-prayer.html> that introduces you to the what, why, and how's of Bridge Prayer. You can watch videos that will help you prepare for engaging in Bridge Prayer (skip the three videos about Training for Leaders, unless you want to watch them).

Spiritual Preparation

It will be helpful to prepare yourself for this gathering, so that you engage as fully as possible from the beginning. To this end, we have three suggestions:

1. Read through and pray John 17 at least once, or even better daily.
2. Visit the 500th Anniversary Gathering web page on the US website (<http://www.wittenberg2017.us/2017---the-500th-anniversary.html>) and scroll down to the section "What Can I Do to Prepare for Wittenberg 2017", where there are three categories of linked resources – first high priority articles to read, second highly recommended audio / video teachings, and third (if you have time for more!) and in-depth course on the history and nature of church divisions.
3. Pray daily the Wittenberg 2017 Prayer for the 500 Days:

The Wittenberg 2017 Prayer for The 500 Days

Lord Jesus Christ, you prayed:
"May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I in you.
May they be one, so that the world might believe."
We pray that the body of Christ might be united in you,
the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
Break down what stands between us.
Strengthen what unites us.
Give victory over what separates us.
Fill us with the power of your Spirit,
that we might seek ways to unite with each other.
Bring about the day when we can praise you together, in the
fellowship of all who believe.
Amen.