Wittenberg Summer Course 2027

Reformation and family

July 12–August 7, 2027



The sixteenth-century renewal of the church and the world, sparked by Martin Luther's rediscovery of the Gospel, was closely linked to the basic unit of early modern social life: the family. This basic unit was traditionally called the 'house,' referring to a husband, wife, and their children, as well as other close relatives and household personnel. Over the course of four weeks, the Summer Course will delve into the profound impact of the Reformation on the role of the family within society and the church, and the subsequent evolution of family life. Special attention will be given to the theological discourses about the family and their connection to everyday piety. It is no exaggeration when the church historian Rudolf Mau remarks: "Never before or since in the history of the church has theological insight proven itself to be a power which both deeply and quickly changed the way people looked at their life and, consequently, also transformed their institutions, social order and politics." This is especially true for the family.

The Wittenberg Summer Course will take place from **July 12 to August 7, 2027**, at the Old University (Leucorea) in Wittenberg, Germany. Ten Student Fellows from across the globe will be chosen from current or future PhD students who would benefit from in-depth discussions about the message of the Reformation in context. A Research Fellow will be present, working on his or her own academic projects in the libraries and archives in and around Wittenberg. The Wittenberg Center team and a number of renowned Teaching Fellows will be responsible for lectures and source studies. Each Student Fellow will give a presentation on a research project of their choosing. They will have the opportunity to discuss their research projects with the entire group, as well as in face-to-face meetings with the Research and Teaching Fellows.

The course program includes study days every Wednesday, a weekend excursion, and a free weekend. Those chosen to participate will have all program expenses covered: airfare, visa application, single room accommodation with breakfast, excursions, and a per-diem for lunch and dinner.

If you are interested in participating in the Wittenberg Summer Course please contact us: Wittenberg Center for Reformation Studies, Dr. Andreas Stegmann, Dunckerstrasse 34, 10 439 Berlin, Germany, **stegmann@wittenbergcenter.de**.

If you would like to have more information about who are we and what do we do, please visit our website at **www.wittenbergcenter.net**.

Planned schedule

Week 1	
Monday	Wittenberg history
Tuesday	Research on Reformation and family
Wednesday	*Study day*
Thursday	Contrasting visions of Christian life in the late Middle Ages
Friday	Martin Luther on family – biography and theology
Saturday	Family piety in the epitaphs of St. Mary's, Wittenberg
Week 2	
Monday	The family as a monastery in the Wittenberg Reformation
Tuesday	Spouses – marriage, life as a couple, sexuality, divorce
Wednesday	*Study day*
Thursday	Children – childhood, upbringing, religious education
Friday	House – daily life, servants, food, diseases, animals
Week 3	
Monday	Martin Luther and the fides infantium
Tuesday	The book of Genesis as a guide for Protestant family life
Wednesday	*Study day*
Thursday	Wedding liturgies of the Sister Reformations
Friday to Sunday	Weekend excursion to Nuremberg
Week 4	
Monday	The research concept of 'generations' and its usefulness for analyzing early modern England
Tuesday	The King's Great Matter and the story of the English Reformation as a family business
Wednesday	*Study day*
Thursday	The family in the Book of Common Prayer and the Books of Homilies
Friday	Christian family life in early modern England
Saturday	Wrap-up of the Summer Course