

Kathryn

For Kathryn, it is all in the family!

She graduated in Elementary Education from Illinois State in 2014, then completed a two-year colloquy through Concordia University Chicago in 2017, the same year she married her husband J. B. Bruntjen. Now Kathryn serves the Lord as a kindergarten teacher at Zion Lutheran School in Lincoln, the school she herself attended. Going back to teach there was like returning to home and family.

On the subject of family, Kathryn's parents David and Stephanie Opperman had preceded her, both in attending ISU and in worshipping at Wittenberg Lutheran Center. Also, her two younger siblings have followed her to ISU and Wittenberg. All in the family!

Is there any wonder that Kathryn likes 3 John 4, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth"? This passage comes to her mind when she reflects on her own experience with campus ministry. She says: "If we, as instruments of Christ, are seeking to affect the lives of many and win souls for the cause of the Gospel, campus ministries are a wonderful space to present the Gospel and offer students hope and truth." Campus ministries form the front lines in a battle for the hearts, minds, and souls of students.

Kathryn adds that Wittenberg was "where I knew the Word of God would be taught in its truth and purity . . . where myself and other students could discuss current events and life issues at Bible studies, surrounded by nurturing friends, the Pastor, and the Deaconess." Here was a family where she knew God as her Father and Jesus as her Brother through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord used your congregation's gifts to the Central Illinois District to put Wittenberg Lutheran Center in place and maintain its ministry, for folks like Kathryn. Thank you!

"I thank my God . . . because of your partnership in the gospel" (Phil. 1:3-5).

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