



***“Fix Your Eyes on What is Unseen!”***

***Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oxford, FL***

***June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018***

## NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

“Where are you?” is God’s question for Adam and Eve, and for all of us. It is not that he doesn’t know where we are. He asks us so that we will stop avoiding him and filling his place in our lives with other things. He wants us to know that he is looking for us because he wants to be our Savior. What is our answer?

**WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS THIS MORNING!** We are honored by your presence and invite you to return to worship with us again. If you do not have a church home, consider making ours – yours! If you would like more information about Open Bible Lutheran, please feel free to speak to Pastor Schulz or to one of the Greeters. You may reach Pastor Schulz at 989-525-5514. Or go to our web site: [www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com](http://www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com).

## FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

**Restrooms** can be found on the right side of the Welcome Center and the left side of the new fellowship hall.

**Personal Hearing Assistance Devices** are available. Ask an usher.

Also “The Hearing Loop System” is installed. Please turn you hearing aid or cochlear implant to “T” (Telephone.)

**Please turn off all cell phones** Personal and other electronic devices. Thank you.

**Applause:** Please refrain from any applause during the service.

**Photos:** Please refrain from taking any pictures during the service.

**Personal Prayers for Worship** can be found on pages 10 and 11 in the front of the hymnbook.

We have 3 Large Print Hymnals available, please ask an usher for a copy.  
Return at the end of the service.

✝ For respect of those who use the sanctuary for meditation before the service, please refrain from any unnecessary noise once the pre-service music has begun.

**Prayer before worship:** *Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise.*



## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**OPENING HYMN: CW #201 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

**P:** The grace of the Lord ☩ Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### **The Confession of Sins**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

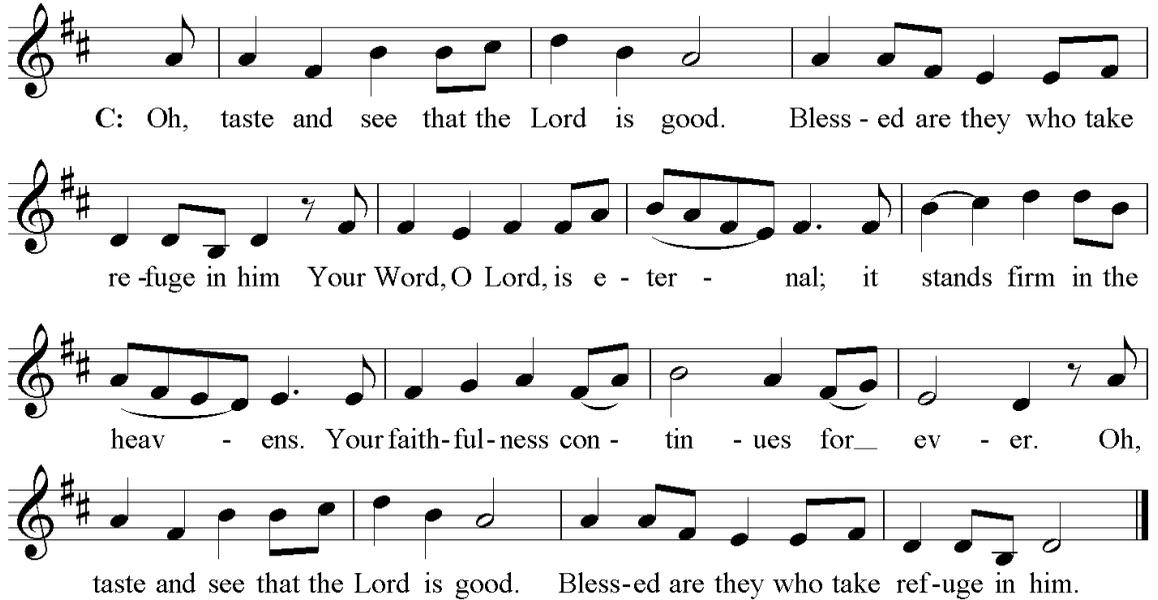
**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray; Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**OH, TASTE AND SEE**



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take  
 re-fuge in him Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal; it stands firm in the  
 heav-ens. Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er. Oh,  
 taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.  
 O God, the strength of all who trust in you, mercifully hear our  
 prayers. Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength to  
 keep your commandments in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ,  
 your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
 Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15

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*Are you hiding even now when he calls you to repentance? Will you come forward and confess it all? You have every reason in the world to confess it all and to embrace what the woman's Seed has come to bring. The questions and answers in Eden are still the only ones in all the world that matter.*

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me —she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." NIV

**THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 51a:** The Psalmist knows his transgressions and pleads with the Lord to wash them away. He prays that he would know again the joy of his salvation and be given a willing spirit that would sustain him.

# PSALM 51a

## Refrain



## Psalm Tone



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Have mercy on <u>me</u> , O God,                  | according to your unfailing love.                       |
| 2. Wash away all my iniquity,                        | and cleanse me <u>f</u> rom my sin.                     |
| 3. For I know my transgressions,                     | and my sin is always <u>b</u> efore me.                 |
| <b>Refrain</b>                                       |   |
| 4. Against you, you only <u>h</u> ave I sinned       | and done what is evil <u>i</u> n your sight.            |
| 5. Surely I was sin <u>f</u> ul at birth,            | sinful from the time my mother <u>c</u> onceived<br>me. |
| 6. Hide your face <u>f</u> rom my sins,              | and blot out all my iniquity.                           |
| 7. Restore to me the joy of your sal <u>v</u> ation, | and grant me a willing spirit, to sust <u>a</u> in me.  |
| <b>Glory be to the Father and <u>t</u>o the Son</b>  | <b>and to the Holy <u>S</u>pirit,</b>                   |
| <b>As it was in the beginning,</b>                   | <b>is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.</b>        |

## Refrain

## THE SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

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*If God has nothing more important on his mind than your salvation, what could be more important on your mind? Whatever it might be, it is merely temporal, merely seen, and its greatest purpose is the moment. So, the paradox: We fix our eyes on what is unseen.*

It is written: “I believed; therefore, I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and

present us with you in his presence. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. NIV

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**C: Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia.**

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! These words are  
writ - ten that we may be - lieve that Je - sus is the Christ, the  
Son of God. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**THE GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 3:20-35**

**page 1507**

(Please stand out of reverence for Christ)

*Those who do not want to hear the Word and those who reject God's total claim on them in the Law and the Gospel despise the Word and the one who brings it. Regardless of their feelings to the contrary, they will not be forgiven their rejection of the Spirit's pleadings. Ah, but those in whom he works a hearing, look what he gives! Each one becomes Jesus' brother or sister or mother-as though he had only one, and you are that one!*

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." So, Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin." He said this because they were saying, "He has an evil spirit." Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." **NIV**

P: This is the Word of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you O Christ!

## **HYMN OF THE DAY #597 “May God the Father of Our Lord”**

**SERMON: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18**



### **“Focus on What Is Unseen!”**

#### **CONFESSION OF FAITH: *Apostles’ Creed (Please stand)***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell, the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**THANK OFFERING** *The members of Open Bible congregation have joined together to do the Lord’s work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering that supports our church’s ministry, but you are welcome to do so.*

**“Pass It On”** *by Kurt Kaiser*

*Karen Pearson, solo, guitar*

*1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up to its glowing.  
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it:  
You spread his love to ev'ryone; you want to pass it on.*

*2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding,  
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.  
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it:  
You want to sing; it's fresh like spring; you want to pass it on.*

*3. I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found.  
You can depend on Him; it matters not where you're bound.  
I'll shout it from the mountaintop! I want my world to know;  
The Lord of love has come to me; I want to pass it on.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** O Lord, we give great thanks to You that You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, so much so that You have given Your only Son to redeem us from sin and death.

**C:** **Grant that we might always rejoice in Your steadfast love, repent of sin and remember to follow Your commandments.**

**P:** Almighty God, we give thanks that You delight to fulfill Your promises to us. We pray that You would continue to send forth Your Word as You have promised to accomplish Your saving will in our troubled world.

**C:** **Grant that we might hear and rejoice in all that You proclaim, both Your Law and Your Gospel, that we might go out in joy and be led forth in peace all the days of our lives.**

**P:** Heavenly Father, we give thanks that You see to it that Your Word is sown throughout the world so that all who hear and believe might be saved. With thanks that Your Son has already conquered the evil one by His death and resurrection, we pray that You would preserve us from every temptation so that the Word might not be snatched from our hearts,

but that we might always cling to the news of Your kingdom in Christ. Cause the seed of your Word to be planted in every continent, every city, every village, every home and every heart so that those facing eternity without Christ may come to know Him as their Savior.

**C: We earnestly implore you to reveal the real Jesus to Muslims of the world so that His love for them may transform their fear and hatred into faith and love.**

**P:** Almighty God, we earnestly pray for your mercy and healing for our nations. Where there is division and distrust, bring healing and understanding. Bless our leaders, including the President, our Governor, the Congress in Washington D.C., the Legislature of this state, and those who are entrusted with public safety with wisdom to deal effectively with the great problems of our day.

**C: Above all renew the churches of America that they may lead the spiritual renewal of our nation.**

**P:** Heavenly Father, we thank You that for the sake of Jesus You have declared us to be children of God and fellow heirs of the Kingdom with Christ. Trusting that You delight to hear the prayers of Your children, we commend to You all who are in need of deliverance from affliction, grief and suffering, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_ ]. Give to them relief according to Your will, and in the meantime work all things to grant them comfort and faith.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on  
earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And  
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us; And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from  
evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

**HYMN: CW #343 "Christ is the World's Light"**

**P:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**P:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.





**CLOSING HYMN: #399 "To God Be the Glory"**

Please join us for Fellowship following the service.

**Prayer Partners Program** - Our Prayer Partner for today is \_\_\_\_\_. Prayer requestors should join \_\_\_\_\_ at the front of the church by the communion rail immediately following the worship service this morning.

***IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:*** *For healing we pray for:* Judy Hainen, Ed Richesson , Chuck Jaeger, Peggi Carrier, Carol Benrud, Bill Whitford, Les Stauske *For chronic pain we pray for:* Ken Wells, BJ Collins, Mike Villemure, Jennifer Schlegel, Marilyn Pearson, Renda Mackey, Doreen Schaefer, Linda Niermeyer, **our nation and leaders; those who protect us at home and abroad; those without work and income; marriages and families; the unborn.**  
**If you know of someone in the hospital, please contact the church office at 352-753-9038, to let us know. Thank-you.**

**Chancel Flowers Today** are given to God's glory by Ruth Ann Niermeyer in celebration of her Mother's Birthday, Ruth Niermeyer on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Happy Anniversary:** Jerry & Mary Brooks – 10, Ken & Elisabeth Wells - 15

**Happy Birthday:** Brenda Severa – 11, Mary Whitford – 11, Carol Stauske – 12, Ruth Niermeyer – 13, Elizabeth Koch – 15, Donna Davis – 17, Jennifer Schlegel - 19

**Karen's hours:** Mon: 9:30-1:30, Tuesday-OFF, Wed: 9-4, Thursday-10-2, Fri. 9-12

**SERVING WITH GRATITUDE**

**Organist:** Mary Burel

**Organist next week:** Hymnsoft-Jeanne Schulz

**Sunshine & Rehab Committee:** June 1-15: Sandy Pawlowski, June 16-31

Jim Johnson **Ocala:** June: Vanita McCurnin

**Greeters Today :** Jutta Owens, John Marks

**Greeters Next Week June 17<sup>th</sup> :** Jim & Eva Orcutt

**Ushers Today:** Roger Acklam, Alan Johnson

**Ushers Next Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> :** Roger Acklam, Alan Johnson

**Communion Assistant June 17<sup>th</sup> :** Greg Wendorf

**Coffee Hostesses June 10<sup>th</sup> :** Carole Sheidler, Mary Shara

**Altar Guild for May:** Bonnie Farnsworth

**Counters:** Jim Johnson, Rich Mason

**Prayer Partner: June 10<sup>th</sup> :** **Next week June 17<sup>th</sup> :** Jim Duncan

**Newsletter & Kneemail Coordinator:** Karen Pearson

(KarenOpenBible@gmail.com)

**Who's Who Reporter:** Peggi Carrier

**Bulletin Assembler:** John Marks

**Cleaning:** Jim & Carol Beetch

**Food Pantry Drop-off Volunteers:** Jim & Eva Orcutt

**WELS Connection Technician:** Dan Pearson, LeRoy Valley

**Golf Cart Driver: June 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>:** Steve Kuepker

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**Offerings: June 3rd Attendance: 118**

General Fund	\$ 4,989.00
Building Fund	\$ 640.00
Coffee	\$ 41.00
Kids of OB	\$ 10.00
Flowers	\$ 80.00
Steeplechase	\$ 22.00
Carriage House	\$ 27.00
Haiti Missions	\$ 50.00
<u>LACE Interest</u>	<u>\$ 150.12</u>
Total	\$ 6,009.12



Commitments to “Keep Our Vision Growing” \$926,095.00 (includes the Anne Lind gift and the Antioch Grant \$25,000) Total to-date collected: \$875,181.70

**Announcements This Week 6/10/18 – 6/16/18**

- Today 9:30 AM Worship Service
- Today 10:30 AM Fellowship Time
- Today 10:30 AM Carriage House
- Today 11:30 AM Steeplechase Service
- Thursday 9:30 AM Elder’s Meeting

**Note: Pastor Schulz will be at a Pastor Conference Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**LWMS News:** The WinGS ladies are participating in the “Pill Bottle Collection” for the Lutheran Mobile Medical Clinic in Malawi. Clinic staff use them to send home small amounts of ointments and dressings for patients seen at the clinic. This helps them to stretch their dollars budgeted for medications. Please empty and wash out the bottles, Remove the labels as much as you can or black-out any personal information. Bottles of various widths and about 3” tall are the perfect size. A container has been placed in the Fellowship Hall and has a label to help identify it. We will continue to collect over the summer months. It will cost about \$100.00 to send the box to the mobile clinic. If you would like to help defray the cost

of shipping the pill bottles you can do so by marking your donation for “Wings” Shipping for the Pill Bottles Project either on your regular offering envelope or the envelope in the pew. Thank you for considering how you can assist in this project.

**Help for Fellowship Hour:** Please consider signing up to help in the kitchen on Sunday mornings. Men are encouraged to help too! The ladies need someone capable to lift the heavy coffee pots and help with clean-up. Please see the sign-up sheet on the counter.

## **Today’s Bible Trivia:**

### **First Lesson – Genesis 3:8-15**

#### **Why were Adam and Eve hiding from God?**

*Adam and Eve hid from God because his nearness exposed their guilt. Satan had promised Eve that she would be like God; instead, Adam and Eve became fools, thinking they could hide from the One who sees all. And Adam and Eve ran away from their best friend, rather than turning to him and repenting. How tragic when we do the same!*

#### **How did Adam and Eve respond to being “found out?”**

*Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake. Adam, in effect, blamed God for the situation he was in that supposedly made him fall (“the woman you put here with me...she gave me...”) Look at your own response to being found out for your sin. Real repentance owns up to the full guilt of your reactions, as well as your previous actions.*

#### **How did God respond to Adam and Eve’s deadly fall?**

*God responded in amazing love by providing a way of escape. He set up the only plan to undo the damage of sin. He promised that a “seed” of the woman (Jesus) would crush Satan’s head, even when his own heel was struck. That promise came true when Jesus died for us and rose again.*

## **Second Lesson – 2 Corinthians 4:13-18**

### **What gave Paul and the apostles boldness to speak?**

*What you have in your heart and mind will show itself in what you say. Their “spirit of faith” was based on the assurance that since Jesus was raised from the dead, all believers will follow suit.*

### **How did this affect them in their daily pains and troubles?**

*They didn’t “lose heart” even though their health was deteriorating, and circumstances were hitting them hard. They saw those as “momentary” in comparison with what they were going to experience in eternity with Jesus. Instead those things helped them keep focus on what is eternal rather than the common short-sightedness connected with the material world.*

## **Gospel – Mark 3:20-35**

### **What accusation did the religious leaders level against Jesus?**

*The leaders said that Jesus was demon-possessed (possessed by Beelzebub, “Lord of the Flies”). They claimed Jesus must be one of them if he could drive demons out.*

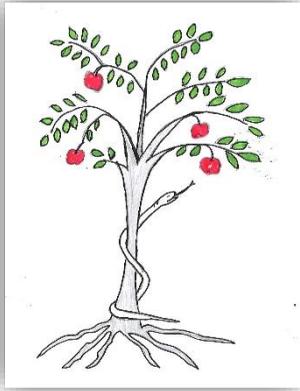
### **How did he counter their argument?**

*Jesus said Satan could not survive if he worked against himself. “A house divided against itself will not stand.”*

### **Is there any sin for which people will not be forgiven?**

*Those who turn against the Holy Spirit’s workings in their life through the gospel and fall away from Christ shut him out. They persistently wall themselves off from the only thing that could save them—God’s forgiveness.*

**The Third Sunday after Pentecost :**  
Symbol of the Week— Sin and Temptation:



The temptation and fall of Adam and Eve in the garden, and the consequences that we read in today's first lesson, are open symbolized as a trunk of a tree with some sort of fruit on it and a snake coiled around it— although Scripture doesn't actually place the serpent in the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The sinful nature of humankind as a result of Adam's fall can also

be represented as a snake coiled around the entire world.

**Next Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day.**



*I*  *Dad*

**Acknowledgements:**

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We have begun a new Radio Ministry on Sunday's at 103.5 "The Shepherd." Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am.

## ***Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church***

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Pastor Rodger Dale: 352-901-1162

“Growing in Christ through the Word, making His Salvation Known”

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

[www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com](http://www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com)



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