

“Things Are Looking Up!”

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

May 13th, 2018

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

This feast day has everything in it – Christmas, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, the Ascension itself, the anticipation of Pentecost and the whole of Half Year of the Church. It's Ascension Day! Aren't you happy for him! He has triumphed and entered into his glory by keeping all of his Word! His triumph today guarantees that he will always keep his Word. Aren't you happy for yourself, too!

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 352-753-9038. Or go to our web site: www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com. Please join us for Fellowship following the service.

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.

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

✝ 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.*

*Preludes: “A Mother’s Prayer” Frank W. As per
Variations on Lasst uns erfrenuen. Janet Linke*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING PROCESSIONAL: CW #171 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”
Choir sings vs 4 alone

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.
 Lord Jesus, King of Glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:1-11

(page 1637)

Jesus ascends so that he can be with us always. He goes so that he can come again and take us to share in his glory. When will he come and restore the kingdom? When the time is best! We are happy to leave it to him and to be busy with the work he has given us to do while we wait.

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” So, when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

NIV

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 47: Sing praises to Jesus. Our ascended Lord reigns over all nations and is once again seated on his throne in the heavens.

Congregation sings refrain, Choir will sing verses

Reproducible Congregational Part

Psalm 47

Michael Morgan

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain

Clap your hands, O faith - ful peo - ple!

Shout to God a song of praise!

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REFRAIN

Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise!

1. Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise!
From the dust of conquered nations, God a realm of grace shall raise.
To God's name forever faithful, May we prosper all our days. **REFRAIN**
2. With a shout and blast of trumpet, God shall mount a throne on high;
Let our praise as finest incense, Rise to meet God in the sky.
Fill the world with glad rejoicing, Heav'n shall sing, and earth reply. **REFRAIN**
3. Let your hearts be filled with gladness, As the Lord your life shall bless;
Live as heirs of God's great justice, Wear the cloak of righteousness.
God will grant us earth's dominion, All things good, and nothing less.

REFRAIN

THE SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:16-23

(page 1760)

He has gone with both natures to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He does it filling all things, and that according to both natures. He could not be closer than he is. And you can believe his Word. He has proven on the cross that God would not lie to you.

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. **NIV**

VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. 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: Luke 24:44-53

(page 1593)

(Please stand out of reverence for Christ)

We might have expected the disciples to be sad. But with the confirmation of all of the Scriptures and the assurance that he would always be with them in his Word, how could they help but rejoice and be glad. He has triumphed. He did it all for us! His triumph is therefore our triumph.

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds, so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they

worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. **NIV**

P: This is the Word of our Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY #173 “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”

SERMON: Ephesians 1:19-22



“Why All The Alleluias?” Pastor Rodger Dale

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.*

"This is the Day the Lord Has Made" by Kevin Hildebrand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: **We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.**

P: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

C: **Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.**

P: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

C: **Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**

P: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

C: **You are our Lord, Master, and King.**

P: Loving God, you honored women with the special blessing and privilege to be mothers. Enable them to live as Christian mothers whose example of faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.

C: **Make the joy of all mothers full by keeping them and their children close to the Savior.**

P: Lord God, we know that in our sin-plagued world no family meets all of the ideals and that as a result mothers bear a burden of guilt and sadness over children lost. Comfort them with your healing peace and forgiveness.

C: As the risen Savior comforted his guilt-plagued disciples with his presence and peace on the day he arose, comfort us with the peace of forgiveness over past regrets.

P: We remember before your throne, O Lord, also those who are grieving, enduring illness and pain, and those facing death, especially...

C: Give them bold faith, patience and steadfast faith.

P: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

C: Lord Jesus, come quickly. 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 #505 "Love Is the Gracious Gift"

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: #175 “Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise”

Postlude: “Toccata” by Johann Pachelbel, “Italian Hymn” by Albert L. Travis

Prayer Partners Program - Our Prayer Partner for today is Judy Anderson. Prayer requestors should join Judy 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, Pam (PJ) Johnson, Jeri Leeper, Kay Blan, Ed Richesson , Peggi Carrier, ***For a successful surgery, we pray for:*** 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.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY – May all your sacrifice and love be returned to you as thanks today! The Church Council is providing flowers for all women as a Mother's Day gift to express gratitude to all mothers for all they have done. The flowers will be handed out after the service.

Happy Birthday: Adrianna Thise - 19

Happy Anniversary: Fred & Loreli Aguda – 14, Stan & Henrietta Cobb - 16

Karen's hours: Mon: 9:30-1:30, Tuesday-OFF, Wed: 9-5, Thursday-10-2, Fri. 9-12

Help Needed: Huns is looking for help cleaning the church, offices, fellowship hall, etc. beginning in May. Please contact Huns Gustrowsky for details.

Message from Pastor: Please drop off any donations of Christian literature to the church office. Pastor Schulz needs to review them before they are added to our new library system. Also, please return any borrowed books to the church office so they can be cataloged. Thank you.

SERVING WITH GRATITUDE

Organist: Judy Hainen

Organist next week: Judy Hainen

Sunshine & Rehab Committee: May 1-15: Betty DeWitz, May 16-31 Ina Taylor

Ocala: May: Vanita McCurnin

Greeters Today : Donna Davis, Jane Semelsberger

Greeters Next Week May 20th : Ruth Vance, Carmen Smith

Ushers Today: Jeff Yonce, Jim Duncan

Ushers Next Sunday, May 20th : Russ Follett, Ted Hahm

Communion Assistant May 20th : Jim Fehlhaber

Coffee Hostesses May 13th : Ruth Ann Niermeyer, Connie Dale

Altar Guild for May: Lois Klatt, Connie Dale

Counters: Barb Matthias, Chris Schmolke, Nancy Gonia

Prayer Partner: May 13th: Judy Anderson **Next week May 20th :** Jim Johnson

Newsletter & Kneemail Coordinator: Karen Pearson

(KarenOpenBible@gmail.com)

Who's Who Reporter: Peggi Carrier

Bulletin Assembler: John Marks

Cleaning: Rich Kuhlman

Food Pantry Drop-off Volunteers: Jim & Eva Orcutt

WELS Connection Technician: Dan Pearson, LeRoy Valley

Golf Cart Driver: May 13th & 20th: Alan Koch

The Defenders Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Jim Johnson. The Defenders will meet Thursday May 17th. Meet at Wolfy's in Ocala, at 11:30am for lunch, then on to R & D Tactical in Ocala for a little practice.

Wednesday in the Word: Bible Study led by Pastor Mark Schulz. Topic: Continues on Wednesdays thru May at 5:00 pm. Topic: The Odyssey of St. Paul. Aside from Jesus himself: no one has had a greater influence on the founding of Christianity than Paul of Tarsus. Among his many achievements, three are of prime importance: 1) as a powerful, tireless missionary, he spread the faith to Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy; 2) his letters, which form much of the New Testament, present a basic theology for Christianity; and 3) more than anyone else, he brought Gentiles into the early church, not only Jews, thus "universalizing" the faith.

Fun Fellowship Group: We are planning a BBQ on Sunday, May 20th at 5:00pm at Open Bible. It is called KIS-C (Keep It Simple Christian) Bar-B-Que!. All are welcome to join. We will provide Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & Buns. Cost will be \$2.00 per person and bring a side dish or dessert to pass. Please bring your own soft drink. Please sign-up so we know if you'll be attending!

Offerings: May 6th Attendance: 123

General Fund	\$ 6,926.62
Building Fund	\$ 310.00
Coffee	\$ 84.00
Flowers	\$ 110.00
LACE Intrest	\$ 145.12
Memorial-Gebhart	\$ 4.24
Haiti Mission	\$ 500.00
Mission-General	\$ 50.00
Kids of OB	\$ 10.00
Steeplechase	\$ 18.00
Total	\$ 8167.98

Commitments to “Keep Our Vision Growing” \$926,095.00 (includes the Anne Lind gift and the Antioch Grant \$25,000) Total to-date collected: \$874,341.70

Announcements This Week 5/13/18 – 5/20/18

Today	9:30 AM	Worship Service
Today	10:30 AM	Fellowship Time
Today	10:30 AM	Carriage House
Today	11:30 AM	Steeplechase Service
Monday	11:00 AM	Kids from King of Kings at Buffalo Crossings
Monday	1:00 PM	SPLASH
Tuesday	1:00 PM	Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	5:00 PM	Wednesday in the Word – Bible Study
Wednesday	6:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:00 AM	Council Meeting
Thursday	11:30 AM	The Defenders
Thursday	2:00 PM	New Life in Christ

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study: will meet on Tuesday with a topic study: “Kitty, My Rib” written by E. Jane Mall. A heartwarming story about the woman behind the great man Martin Luther. (last Bible Study 5/15/18)

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.

New Life in Christ: Led by: Pastor Mark Schulz. Group meets at church on Thursdays from 2:00 - 3:30 PM. This is a class for people interested in becoming a member and a good refresher course for members. It is a wonderful review of the basic teachings of Scripture.

Pastor Schulz will be on vacation from Saturday, May 12th through Wednesday, May 16th. If you have an emergency pastoral call, please contact Pastor Rodger Dale at 352-901-1162 or call the church office.

LWMS: If you would like to help with our LWMS (Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society) Missions, please mark your donation envelope LWMS-Mite Box. These donations will go directly to LWMS.

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.

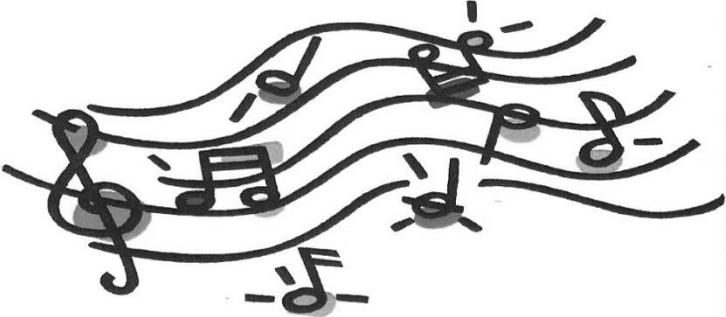
**Open Bible Ready to Help Children in Haiti at
Branch Lutheran School**

For orphans in Haiti, the situation is bleak: Their homeland is the **poorest** nation in the western hemisphere. Haiti's **48% illiteracy** rate drags down dreams of a better future. With a high incidence of **AIDS**, many children are infected from birth or lose their parents to the disease. The practice of **Voodoo** permeates the culture and contributes to exploitation, terror, and despair. Because Haiti is **98% deforested** and its surrounding **reef is dead**, fishing and farming are difficult, and the island is subject to weather extremes and **natural disasters**. In 2010, Haiti was devastated by a severe **earthquake** followed by a **cholera** epidemic. An estimated quarter of a million people lost their lives and many children were orphaned. The situation is bleak - but far from hopeless.

Today 400 children will experience **hope** in the Gospel, **empowerment** through literacy, and the life-changing advantage of a **Christ-centered education** at three Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti. And you can help! Open Bible will match up to \$2000 from our mission fund, any contributions you give, whether by check or cash, and place into a box, that will be on the Friendship Table on May 20th and May 27th. You can also mail a check to the church and put in the memo for Branch Schools in Haiti. Let's help this school reach out with Christ to these struggling children.



You're
Invited



**The students from
King of Kings Lutheran School
presents
Favorite Songs**

**Monday, May 14
11:00 am**

Buffalo Crossings 3890 Woodridge Dr. The Villages, FL

A special donation box is available on the friendship table for donations to the kids from King of Kings.



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

Pastor Mark M Schulz

4671 Bellwether Lane

Oxford, FL 34484

352-753-9038, 989-525-5514

Pastor Rodger Dale: 352-901-1162

"Growing in Christ through the Word, making His Salvation Known"

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com



Scan this image with your iPhone or iPad and go immediately to our web site.



Dear Jesus, you had an earthly mother, Mary. Today we especially remember and honor our earthly mothers. We thank you for all the blessings you have given us through our mothers. And we ask that you bless all mothers. Help them to become like your mother, Mary, having a humble faith that accepts your Word, even when what it says seems impossible. Help all mothers model such faith for their children. Amen.