



Newsletter



April 2019

Volume 14 No. 4

From the Pastor "De-Stress as a Senior" by Pastor Mark Schulz

The believer's response to adversity is critical if he is to emerge successfully. The Word of God reveals several fundamental principles that can bring us through tough times and even positively benefit our spiritual and emotional well-being in the process.

First, we should look at our situation as with a telescope, not under a microscope. All too often, we magnify our troubles beyond their significance and in so doing increase their pressure. Instead, remember that God is the author and finisher of our faith, knowing the end from the beginning and providing all of our necessities for the present. Concentrate on today's problems, not tomorrow's, and thank God for His daily grace to sustain you.

Second, rely on God's strength, not yours. Satan deceives us into thinking we can handle our strains in our own cleverness and abilities—until we are almost at the breaking point. The key is to lean on His indwelling might at the initial stage of the problem. God's strength comes as He stabilizes our emotions with His peace, infuses our hearts with His joy, and provides us with His all-sufficient wisdom to deal with any hardship in life. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Ephesians 6:10). "He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength" (Isaiah 40:29).

Third, thank God that He is at work producing some positive results from your stressful circumstances. Trials always turn us toward the Lord, seeking and trusting Him with new fervor. Trials also are working in us to create sturdier Christian character and the ability to persevere under the load. "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3, 4). As we turn to the sufficiency of Christ and trust in His power and wisdom, we gain new spiritual maturity and hardiness of spirit.

How God Uses Our Stressful Times

God is never out to break us or shatter us. He knows our frame and will not overload us in times of stress. Rather, He seeks to use our stressful times as cleverly disguised opportunities for us to gain His perspective, lean on His strength, and develop steadfastness with which we can run life's course. God may not change the circumstance that is pressing so grievously on you. He may not remove that person who vexes you so greatly. He may not heal that affliction that daily grates away at your body and soul. But He will dramatically alter your own emotions and responses as you turn to Him instead of running or exploding.

Over time, you truly will find His strength, wisdom, and presence sufficient for the fray. Your stress will become a catalyst for spiritual stability instead of an agent of destruction and despair. The pressure will reinforce your faith, not weaken it. We became steadfast Christians, able to endure and overcome through the power of Jesus Christ.

"Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22). For further insights, read the following passages:
Isaiah 30:15, Matthew 5:11-12, Matthew 6:25-34, Luke 12:22-34, Acts 5:40-41

President's Message

I'm quite sure that most if not all of us, spent a significant amount of time and effort carefully planning a path for retirement. We may have utilized the services of a financial advisor who probably advised us to carefully examine investing in 401K's or some other equally sound financial resources. He may have encouraged us to continue putting money in the stock market during all the ups and downs of the economy because historically the chances of a good return were promising.

We probably even went so far as to sacrifice a number of things/pleasures of this world in order to assist us in making sure we were properly focused on the benefits of a sound, long range financial future.

A recent March 4th article in the Village Daily Sun reported that many Villagers have invested carefully and are now

reaping the benefits. Newly evaluated data shows that Villagers are the best prepared retirees in the country. As wonderful as that all seems it doesn't address the most important element of our future. Investing in retirement funds is temporarily profitable but God tells us to be sure that we are investing wisely in our spiritual lives, which offers the best possible return on our eternal future. The end result of living our lives for Jesus is a fortune that is far greater than anything imaginable. God wants heaven to be full of believers so much so that that he willingly sent His son Jesus who loves us so much that He gave up His heavenly glory to live and die as our substitute to win a place for us in heaven.

The following is a poem written by an anonymous individual that speaks to God's love:

Love brought Him down from the glory,
Love made Him come from the sky;
Love in His heart for the sinner
Led Him to suffer and die.

We find our joy and fortune in the unknown blessings to come from Jesus and His heavenly Kingdom, not the things of this world. Jesus promises us this and we know He has never broken a promise.

In our Lord and Savior we have the best investment. Because of that let's make sure to give him our best. Bring your gifts, your time, your talents, and treasures, and lay them at His feet because you know He is the greatest gift we have ever received.

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

Missions Update Blog: Native Americans

The Apache Mission celebrated 125 years of God's blessings in 2018 as the first world mission of WELS. The Apache Mission is located in eastern Arizona on the Fort Apache Reservation and the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Between the two reservations there are eight churches, one preaching station, and two Lutheran elementary schools. The Apache Lutheran churches are currently training future leaders for work as evangelists, teachers, and pastors through the Apache Christian Training School located at the East Fork Mission.

"The focus of our mission field is to train Native Americans to lead and to serve in God's kingdom. And this training starts already in elementary school with children learning the truths of Scripture and being in a safe environment where Christianity is modeled and practiced by faculty and students alike. And while our schools have been in existence for more than 100 years, recent developments have caused them to burst into brilliant bloom like the poppies.

The state of Arizona now allows parents to choose private education instead of sending their children to the failing public schools on the reservation. In communities where 75% - 80% unemployment is the norm and paying even the smallest tuition amount is a challenge, our schools are now accessible to many more families. And with half of the population on our reservations under the age of 18, we rapidly attracted more students than we have facilities and teachers. Like the poppies, we've burst into life in an instant, increasing the number of students by 100% in the last 5 years.

Among the red rocks and desert hills, Christian schools are blooming. Dedicated teachers who are passionate about sharing Jesus are equipping children to serve our Lord and be leaders in their homes, churches, and communities. Pray for them, and for the continued opportunities to bloom on the Apache reservations where they've been planted."

(Excerpt taken from Mission Blog and Written by Rev. Dan Rautenberg, Native American Missions Field Coordinator)

Blended Services

Open Bible has a blended Worship Service on Saturdays. Service begins at 4:00pm in our new Fellowship Hall, utilizing the new screen and a worship software program called Media Shout.



Come and Join us.

Saying Good-Bye is SO Hard!

Here at Open Bible Lutheran Church, people come from all over the country. Sometimes they stay for one month, sometimes a few months, but it's SO hard to say Good-Bye to the friends we've made while they are here for a visit.

Every Sunday around this time of year, at the end of the worship service we sing one special song in honor of our friends and family of Open Bible. Can you guess what song that is? Yes! That it.. "God Be with You till We Meet Again!"

So, we will keep in touch and see you soon. May God Bless your journey.

LWMS Spring Rally



On March 9, eight women traveled to Victory Lutheran Church in Jacksonville for the 2019 Spring Rally of the North Florida circuit. The ladies, and men who assisted them, hosted a great rally experience. It is always fun to visit other churches, connect with friends and make new ones all while learning about the WELS missions and new programs.

The main speaker was Rev. Lucas Bitter from Atlanta, GA. He is pastor at Intown Lutheran Church. His topic was "Reaching Urban Millennials with the Gospel." His presentation began with a little myth busting about urban ministry and some insights into the age group referred to as Millennials. Urban ministry is changing as young professionals and young families are moving toward the city after the white flight in the 70's left a vacuum to be filled. The process of Gentrification, remodeling neighborhoods to middle class tastes and standards is attracting millennials to the inner city. They are moving to the city because they desire diversity; economic, of age and ethnically. Also, they are themselves more diverse. Millennials are 40% non-white and racially blended.

The next couple of statements were disconcerting as Pastor Bitter said Church attendance is no longer the norm. There is no cultural pressure to go to church today. We should accept the reality of change to being in a minority. Don't be shocked or outraged by the lack of Christianity in the world. The Moral Minority in present culture should look at this as an opportunity. Our mission field

is truly right outside our door. We need to embrace this opportunity.

How do you reach people who may never darken the door of church to hear the message of Salvation and then participate in classes at the church? Outreach is relational rather than confrontational. Millennials and others are suspicious of door-to-door canvassing. So, they use festivals, street fairs and markets to reach people where they gather. They have give-aways and offer them informational classes about Christianity and Salvation before they ever come to a service. Participants sign up for follow-up contact. The classes are not held in church but in informal settings like coffee shops. The pastor's office is in a public space where there is an opportunity to meet and form relationships with many non-Christians.

What does the Worship setting, and service look like? The facility may be a coffee house or office building space not used on Sunday. Everything is on a screen on the wall. There are no pastoral robes. The experience is message driven with the same emphasis on scripture in line with WELS beliefs. But people may be more informally dressed and sipping coffee or water. The congregation is small and diverse culturally, ethnically and economically and reflective of the community around it.

The presentation left me pondering what God has in store for Open Bible in the years ahead. At a time when there is much hand wringing about the state of Christianity, refocusing on the opportunity that fact presents is exciting. It is also reassuring to know that God continues to provide ways to reach out with the Gospel so that it can do the work of touching people's hearts.

Submitted by: Peggi Carrier, your Open Bible LWMS Reporter

CAMM Notes and News

I received information about the flooding in Malawi and how things are going for the Lutheran Mobile Clinic and the four clinic sites. One is a letter from the Gary Evans the clinic administrator who describes the impact of Cyclone Idai on the southern part of Malawi. Hardest hit was the Mozambique coastal city of Beira, with destruction extending into Zimbabwe. He reports that the WELS Committee for Aid and Relief has provided food and supplies to LCCA members and Kingdom Workers have also been aiding in relief efforts. Doing a Google search for Cyclone Idai and Malawi should bring up several articles. The one from NPR is suggested by the CAMM contact chairwoman. I am adding several pages with some pictures to the book on the LWMS table. One is the letter from Gary Evens the clinic administrator for the Mobile Clinic and one is from Alisad Banda, Clinic Administrator for the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Center in Zambia. There are also some brochures about Central Africa Medical Mission.

Our WinGS group has processed and is sending out two boxes of pill bottles, one to the Mobile Medical Clinic and the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Center in Zambia. Your donations continue to help us keep the shipments going out when shipment schedules open up. Financial donations can be made in your offering envelope by indicating in the Other blank a dollar amount for WINGS – Shipping or postage.

*Serving Christ Together
Peggi Carrier,
CAMM Contact Woman*

Emergency Contact Information

Open Bible can add an emergency contact person's information to your file. Please indicate the person's Name, Relationship to you, their phone number and the state/country that they live in.

Please give this to our church secretary, Karen Pearson and she will add it to your file. You never know when this will come in handy.

Care for the Caregivers At Open Bible

Pastor Dale is inviting you to attend the next caregiver gathering on Thursday, April 4th at 2:00pm in Open Bible's conference room (off the Fellowship Hall.) Feel free to invite a guest who may be interested in this group. Previous sessions have proved to be very helpful. On April 4th we will have a guest speaker, Kimberly Lanning.

Women of Open Bible Spring Tea: Teacups and Tulips

Our "Teacups and Tulips" was a huge success! Thank-you to all that attended, helped in the kitchen, donated finger sandwiches, scrumptious scones, pastries and desserts. Our special table prayer was sung by Carol Benrud and Karen Pearson. Karen accompted on her guitar. After the Tea and desserts, all the ladies were able to take home the tea cup as a special gift from WinGS! (Women in God's Service).

Here is a picture of the models for our fashion show. All the clothes were from "Fashion Labels" in Leesburg. The shop owner "Maxine" was the show



coordinator. Please visit her store at 1509 South Street, Suite 5 in Leesburg, Florida.

Thank-you ladies for a wonderful afternoon.

Mornings with Mommy



"Mornings with Mommy" is a fun and easy way for a mom to enjoy activities with her children and meet other moms. There will be age appropriate activities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. And the best part is...we do all the planning, you just sign up! Snacks and activities are FREE! Moms can mingle with each other while enjoying activities with their children including: Arts and Crafts, Sensory Tables, Flannel Stories, Story Time, Music, Educational Toys, and a Yummy Snack. Register online today at: www.openbiblelutheran church.com (right side of home page) or Call 352-753-9038 Every first and third Tuesday of the month. The April dates are Tuesdays, April 2nd & 16th .

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers

If you have never attended our Wednesday Soup Suppers, you are in for a treat! From 4:30 – 5:15pm, we will have our soup suppers hosted by various small groups from Open Bible. Each menu is different and made by participants in the group. The suppers are followed by the Mid-week Lenten services.

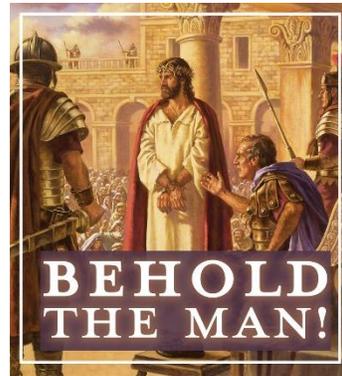
April 3rd: Men of Leisure, BOB, Defenders
 April 10th: 466A group, North Country

Midweek Lenten Service

Wednesdays at 5:30
 April 3rd & 10th

Behold the Man!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. . . . The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 —John 1:1–3, 14



"Behold the man!" proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest, yet most profound, sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human

flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real, bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus' return.

Each week, we'll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears? Behold the man! In sermon, in study, in devotion, behold the man!

Small Group Ministry

466A Group Bible Study: The April meetings will be held on Tuesdays, April 9th & 23rd at 2:00pm. The Topic: The Reason I Believe, Chapters 12-14)

Here are the Dates and Topics:

April 9th: The Problem of Evil and the Problem of Darwinism (Chapters 12-13)
Host will be Helga Maass

April 23rd: Natural Law and Conclusion and Application (Chapter 14) Hosts will be Tom & Betty DeWitz

If you are planning of attending, please call the hosts for that day so they can save you a seat!

Pastor Rodger Dale is the Facilitator.

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands **Handiwork**



Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski
The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 19th

9:00 – noon. This group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also, many will bring their knitting, crochet, and embroidery to work on. So, if you have any craft project you are working on, please come and enjoy the fellowship.

Men of Leisure—Men's Breakfast Bible



Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler

Meeting on Friday, April 12th 8:30 am. Meeting

place will be Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466 near Buena Vista.

Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen

Journey with Jesus Bible Study will continue the Book of Romans Mondays at 9:15 am. (This Bible Study will continue until May 13th. "In 1515 Martin Luther began to teach the book of Romans to his students. He wrote, "Night and day I pondered until,... I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise...". Any lady wishing to join us, contact Judy Hainen.

The Defenders

Led by: Bill Sigurdson

The Defenders will meet on Wednesday, April 17th (new date!) Meet at Wolfy's 2159 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala at 11:30am. After lunch on to R&D Tactical at 1031 NE 16th St, Ocala.

WinGS: Women in God's Service

Led by: Jane Valley

The WinGS Womens group meets the second



Wednesday of each month. April meeting will be on the 10th and begins at 1:00pm. Come and find out what that's all about!

SPLASH: Single People Loving and



Serving Him
Led by: Pastor
Rodger Dale
SPLASH will
gather on

Monday April 8th at 1 PM. SPLASH is studying "Great Players of the Bible – Solomon's Prayer at the Dedication of the Temple. **Before the meeting**, SPLASH will meet at Olive Garden at 11:30am for lunch. If you are new to the church or know someone interested in joining us for our Bible study, come join us. SPLASH is open to singles. This is not a match making function, but rather organized to share our faith and grow through caring for others.

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson
This Bible Study will be on Sundays, April 7th and 14th from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Meet at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. The Topic: "Bible Battles" by Stephen Leston. The 11 chapters cover the background, overview, Key players, weapons and meaning of Scriptural Battles. Each lesson will also include the short- and long-term outcomes of each battle covered. The study of the Bible's battles reveals that God is not a spectator regarding human events. God knew the outcome of each war before it began. He masterfully used the outcome to bring about the story of salvation and guide world history.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson
The Ladies Bible Study will continue

Tuesday's at 2:00 pm. The Bible Study will meet until May 14th. Topic is "2 Timothy" by Beth Moore. Please contact Pam Johnson at 352-390-6982, if you will be attending.

Friday Fore-Giving Golfers

Facilitator is Sandy Fehlhaber



This group meets once a week on Fridays to golf the Executive courses in The Villages. Teams are determined by the Sunday prior to the golf date. Each golfer is equipped with a small plastic bag with extra-long tees and a business card from Open Bible to hand out to unchurched golfers.

Saturday Duffers Golfing outside



The Villages. Join a group of golfers at different Golf courses on Saturdays. This group will start up again in mid-October. If interested, please contact Joe Malec:
MalecJoe@gmail.com

Sunrise Saturday Morning Golfers:



This group is for those of you that would like to golf at The Villages executive golf courses in the morning. This group's coordinator is Leslie Nelson. Please contact her if you are interested in joining.

Choir: Open Bible Choir will practice on



Wednesdays at 6:15 pm. They will meet after the Wednesday Lenten Service. There is a special unity when a group of singers practice and minister together. We like to practice four anthems ahead, so we are well prepared. Music Director is Judy Hainen.

Golf Cart Ministry: If you are interested in driving the golf cart to pick-up people from the surrounding Independent Living Facilities and bring them to Open Bible Worship services. Contact Joe Malec.



BOB Breakfast: A Saturday morning breakfast at Open Bible followed by a Bible study. The group will meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:30 A.M. April 6th is the next meeting. Breakfast and fellowship for 45 minutes, followed



by a 45-minute Bible class discussion. The group coordinator is Richard Raine. Topic: *April 6th: "They've Done What?: Reacting properly when the sin of living together strikes close to home."*

Fellowship Group

Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson, Joe & Paula Malec. We are looking for ideas. Please give your suggestions to Karen or Paula to consider.

Grief Share: 13 week video-based small group to help those who have lost a loved one in death. Thursdays for 1:00—2:30pm. Meets when the need arises.

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson



More Excitement! Is happening here at Open Bible. The handbells are scheduled to play during the Lenten and Easter season. If you

have an interest, or have played handbells before, please speak to Pam Johnson. The handbell choir will rehearse on Sundays, at 11:00am, right after worship.

Easter Lily Plants

The Altar Guild has purchased Easter Lily plants for Easter Sunday, April 21st. If you would like to donate for the purchase of these plants the cost is only \$6.00 per plant. You may pay in cash or write a check to Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church, place in the offering plate & indicate the amount is for the Flower Fund/Easter Lilies. The plants may be taken home after the last Easter Sunday service. If you have questions, contact Carol Stauske at 352-292-3079.



Lenten Series:

Behold The Man!

Lenten Service 5 – April 3rd 5:30 PM
 "A Man with a Mother" • We recall that the man Jesus had to be born and grow in the body of, and under the care of, His mother. But Mary is also His disciple, given to another, John, at the foot of the cross.

Light Dinner served from 4:30 – 5:15 PM
Lenten Service 6 – April 10th 5:30 PM
 "A Man Who Thirsts" • We recall that the man Jesus said on the cross, "I thirst." As a true man, He had become dehydrated, though earlier in His life He had used water to save a wedding, He had promised eternally thirst-quenching water to the woman at the well, and He had even walked on the water of the sea. But as true God, He had another thirst:

not for Himself but for the salvation of all people.

Light Dinner served from 4:30 – 5:15 PM

Maundy Thurs. – April 18th 5:30 PM

“A Man Who Loves” • On the night when He will be betrayed, the One who has every power of God, “having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end” (John 13:1).

Good Friday – April 19th 5:30 PM

“A Man Who Bleeds, A Man Who Dies” • Why has God become man? Why does God have flesh? Why does God have a heart that beats, lungs that breathe, a brain with synapses that fire? For this: to die.

Easter Worship – April 21st

“A Man Who Rises” **7:00 AM**



The Easter Sunrise service will be a song service with Communion

Easter Breakfast 8:00 AM

Easter Festival Worship 9:30 AM

“The Festival of the Resurrection of our Lord.” There will be no communion in the 9:30 AM service. • Jesus’ resurrection is a very physical act for the life of the man Jesus. “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again,” Jesus had said (John 10:18). So now He does. The very good news is that Jesus’ resurrection is not just for His sake. As His death was for those of us who in our bodies are dying as the fair consequence for our sins, so now His resurrection is for those of us over whom death was thought to have the final word. Jesus rose bodily, body and soul knit back together eternally. And He promises not some disembodied rest for our souls with

Him but a complete resurrection to follow where He has led the way. As we sing in the hymn refrain, “Jesus has risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!”

Did You Know?



Can Collection: Bring your “crushed” & “rinsed” cans to church on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month. Put your cans in the back of the white car parked out in front of church. Thank you from the Women of Open Bible (WinGS.)

Food Pantry Collection: Please bring non-perishable food items on the 1st Sunday of the month. A collection bin is located by the front doors. Gordon & Shirley Roback will take the items to the donation site for the Wildwood Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

The 2019 Flower Calendar has been placed on the bulletin board near the water fountain. The cost is \$35.00 per arrangement or \$70.00 for both. Please indicate on your envelope payment is for “flowers”. Two families may sign up for a Sunday and share the cost. If you have questions, please call Carol Stauske at 352-292-3079.

Memory Garden in Progress:

Work is being done on the new Memory Garden which will include benches, tables, plants, and special granite blocks that may be purchased and engraved as a special "memorial" to your loved ones. There is a sample block located by the sanctuary doors with a form that you can fill out with the information requested. Special thanks to the landscape committee for the beautiful new plants by the church entrance and the islands in the parking lot! Here is a picture of the memory blocks being installed.



Happy Anniversary

Arline & John Kiewra – 5
Mike & Pat Holmes – 8
Steve & Nancy Kuepker - 15
Jim & Marion Petrie – 16
Mel & Susan Parker - 21
Ron & Joanne Stuedemann – 27



Happy Birthday

Gene McConkey – 4
Norma Phillips – 5
Jim Petrie – 6
Mark Mehlberg - 6
Jerry Brooks – 10
Walt Farnsworth – 10
Barb Matthias – 11
Amy Hand – 13
Michael Davis - 14
John Adams – 16
Ralph Omness - 19
Marion Petrie – 22
Bill Stocks – 22
Mike Butzow – 23
Huns Gustrowsky – 27
Pastor Rodger Dale – 29

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

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Listen to our Radio Ministry on Sunday's at 103.5 "The Shepherd."
Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am



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