



Newsletter



August, 2017

Volume 12 No. 8

From the Pastor

It's Not the Size by Pastor Schulz

Gideon was a man who knew no fear when he knew that he had the Word of the Lord behind him. A gigantic coalition of nomadic peoples headed up by the Midianites had rolled into Israel like an invading army of locusts, stealing their animals and destroying their crops. Their camels "could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore." Their army numbered 135,000.

Gideon mustered 30,000 Israelites, but the Lord didn't like those numbers. He thought Gideon had way too many. He led Gideon to reduce Israel's force to a small battalion of 300. He gave Gideon a positive sign, allowing him to overhear a Midianite man's dream of Israelite victory.

"When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, 'Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.' He divided the three hundred men into three companies." (Judges 7:15-16)

Not only did Gideon welcome the sign and believe the Lord's promises; he actually divided his tiny force into three companies. The Lord didn't even need the three hundred—he simply drove the Midianites and their allies to attack and kill one another. Through Gideon's strong leadership, Israel had peace for 40 years.

It pleases the Lord to do great things through small people, to make the extraordinary happen from the ordinary. Never say, "We are too small." Never say, "God can't."

Ladies Bible Study Opportunities

Pam and I would like to invite OBL ladies to our Bible Studies. Journey with Jesus will begin September 11, in my home. Our topic will be Fruits of the Spirit by Hazel Offner. You will need to hear from Pam about date and topic. Please contact Pam White Johnson (phone 352-390-6982) or Judy Hainen, [352-750-5320](tel:352-750-5320), so books may be ordered. Journey with Jesus meets on Monday mornings 9:15-10:30 in various homes. OBL Ladies Bible Study meets Tuesday, 1:00-2:00 at the church.

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 beginning October 3rd, 2017.

Small Group Ministry

The following small groups will meet again in September:

North Country Group
Facilitator: Alan Johnson

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study
Led by Pam Johnson

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork
Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski

Journey With Jesus
Led by Judy Hainen

The Defenders
Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Ken Wells

Fellowship Group
Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson
Joe & Paula Malec

Men of Leisure–Men's Breakfast Group
Led by Dennis Duesser

WinGS: Women in God's Service
Led by: Jane Valley

SPLASH: Single People Loving and Serving Him, Led by: Mike Villemure

The following group will start later in the fall:
Game Nights
Facilitator: Carol Yahn

LIFT (Ladies in Faith Together)
Facilitator: Genie Selvey

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.

Early Bird Bible Studies



Early Bird Sunday Morning Study: 8:00-8:50 A.M.

September 10th through November 26th
This study focuses on discussions people are talking about today. The studies will equip learners with biblical truths for engaging in challenging issues with their family and friends.

What's a Christian to Think?

September 10th: Visiting Heaven: Are these visits for real?

September 17th: Haunted Houses: Debunking the myths and deciphering the mysteries

What's a Christian to Say?

September 24th: Overweight or Overfit?: The narrow Lutheran middle

October 1st: They Posted WHAT?!: Addressing inappropriate use of social media by Christians
October 8th: I'm Spiritual, Not Religious: Responding correctly to critics and pundits

What's a Christian to Do?

October 15th: Tattoos--Still Taboo?: Should a Christian get a tattoo?
October 22nd: They've Done WHAT?!: Reacting properly when the sin of living together strikes close to home
October 29th: A Christian's Use of Psychoactive Medication: A crutch, a blessing, or a danger?

A Return To Grace Luther's Life and Legacy

Participants will explore how the Reformation and Martin Luther impacted the world both in 1517 and today, using four excerpts from the film. Discussing and applying what they saw, they will be led to a deeper understanding of this important milestone in Lutheranism. The lessons are:

November 5th: Grace Hidden
November 12th: Grace Rediscovered
November 19th: Grace Defended
November 26th: Grace Confessed and Enduring

466A Small Group Fall Bible Study

September 12th at 2:00 P.M.
Grace Hidden
September 26th at 2:00 P.M.
Grace Rediscovered
October 10th at 2:00 P.M.
Grace Defended
October 24th at 2:00 P.M.
Grace Confessed
November 7th at 2:00 P.M.
Minutes With Messiah
November 21st at 2:00 P.M.
Minutes With Messiah

Wednesday in the Word

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Lutherans recall how important the Bible was to Luther as he faced the burning questions of life and faith. Join us this fall in our Wednesday Bible study: A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy.

Wednesday In The Word

September 6th through November 22nd from 5:00-6:00 P.M.

A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy.

In this study you will deepen your understanding of Reformation history and connect with what our church believes, teaches, and practices today.

Grace

September 6th: The Beginning: Baptism
September 13th: God's Undeserved Gift: Justification by Grace
September 20th: Not for Sale: Forgiveness in Christ Alone
September 27th: Christ's Body and Blood: Holy Communion

Faith

October 4th: Forgiven but Not Perfect: Saint and Sinner
October 11th: Witness Together: Augsburg Confession
October 18th: Join and Sing to the Lord: Congregational Worship
October 25th: All Serve Christ: Vocation

Scripture

November 1st: One Authority: Scripture Alone
November 8th: Bold Witness: Confidence Drawn From Scripture
November 15th: Not by Force: Power of the Word
November 22nd: My Bible: The Bible Into People's Hands

Did You Know?

Coffee Host/Hostesses: Please sign-up to help with the coffee/fellowship hour. The sign-up sheet is located in the Kitchen pass-thru. Men are invited to help too! Thank you.

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 red car parked out in front of church. Thank you from the Women of Open Bible.

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. Jim & Eva Orcutt will take the items to the donation site for the Wildwood Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

The 2017 Flower Calendar has been placed on the door at the back of the fellowship hall. 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.

Happy Anniversary

Matthew & Amy Hand – 4
Roger & Robin Otto – 14
Bill & Sharon Sigurdson – 17
Keith & Renda Mackey – 21
Patrick & Vanita McCurnin – 23
Earl & Doris Schlicht – 25
Michael & Donna Davis – 28
Art & Patricia McCartin – 30



Happy Birthday

Joe Price – 1
Nikki Mitra – 2
Jim Orcutt – 2
Roger Acklam – 3
Ron Schultz – 3
Jim Musiel – 5
Carol Yahn – 9
Doreen Schaefer – 10
Peggi Carrier – 11
Gail Rathgeber – 11
Marvin Krahn – 14
Alan Johnson – 14
Vanita McCurnin – 14
Gordon Roback – 16
Phil Herring – 19
Ron Dahm – 21
Russ Follett – 25
Pak Knack – 25
Sandy Pawlowski – 25
Linda Draeger – 26
Jim Johnson – 30



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“Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known”
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com



Please join “The Voice of Open Bible” Sunday’s
11:00 – 11:30am on 89.5 FM (The Boulevard)



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iPad and go immediately to our web site.