



FROM THE PASTOR

I Know.....Job 19:25

Can we be sure of anything? We can't be sure of the cost of groceries, furniture, gasoline and rent; whether war or peace is around the corner; what our children or grandchildren will do with their lives. Is there anything we can know for sure, that we depend on?

Out of the Old Testament pages comes Job with the positive and definite word, "I know that my Redeemer lives." Job had no doubt that His Savior was alive, even though he lived hundreds of years before Christ died and rose.

That positive assurance belongs also to us. We look back and see that the tomb is open. The message of the angel, "He is risen; He is not here" excites us and incites us to faith. We are convinced that our Lord lives. We join Job in saying, "I know that my Redeemer lives."

To know and accept this truth brings hope and comfort. The living Redeemer bestows forgiveness of sins, lays the foundation for a living and dynamic faith, and imparts certain hope for life eternal. What a comfort to go to sleep at night and know that Jesus lives, and to wake up in the morning with the same confidence.

What a spiritually uplifting time for us at Open Bible. For the six weeks of Lent, we focused in on the Wondrous Names of Love by which our Savior is called. We followed his selfless journey to the cross for us. Then on Easter, we had a chance to celebrate his victory over death. An Easter song service, breakfast, and festival service made Easter a special day for us all.

What is hard for me now, is to see many of you seasonal members head back to your northern homes. I have just started to get to know some of you, and you are already leaving. The song that Open Bible often sings at this time of year is my prayer to you: "God Be with you until we meet again." Have a safe journey home, and come back to see us soon. We will keep you

updated via Knee mail, and send you regular pastor updates.

As many of you know, if I see a need where someone might not have a chance to know Jesus, or they might need some type of help in their daily walk with Jesus, I attempt to address that need immediately. One area that has come to your attention recently, is the difficult adjustment some women (non-member and new member) have to living in Florida. These women need someone to talk to, someone to meet with at their home, someone to go out to lunch. Basically, they need Christian friends. So I had the idea of forming a newcomer group. At the present time, there is no newcomer group, nor will there be in the immediate future. I got ahead of myself with my enthusiasm. Rather, there are several women who need support and counsel as they adjust to living in Florida. So, several women are staying in touch with them. In addition, I have given the names of these women (non-member and member), to Sandy Hahm and Joanne Stuedemann to invite to Women of Open Bible activities. They may come. They may not. Our main concern should be to help these friends of Open Bible and new members to adjust to life in Florida and to give them support and counsel.

I am beginning a new 6 week Bible study beginning on April 10th, 2013 called, "Stand Tall While Others Fall!" It is a PowerPoint Bible study on the book of Daniel. The class will be held from 5:00-6:00 pm. The book of Daniel deals with a Christian trying to let his light shine in a very pagan world, much like we find in the United States today. Why not dig into Scriptures and join us for this study?

Our new Evangelism Task force will meet on April 9th, the Young Couple's small group on April 14th and 28th, Grief Share on Mondays from 1:00-2:30 pm, and a New Life in Christ class on Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 pm beginning on April 11th, 2013. Go Open Bible!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Is there a day or days in your life that has extra special meaning? Is it possibly your birthday or anniversary or maybe the birth of a child or grandchild? How about a graduation day or the day you retired? Regardless, special days have special meanings and are not easily forgotten. I'm sure we've all experienced these days of special joy or significance and as Christians we continue to look forward with eager anticipation to two in particular – Christmas and Easter. Both are special milestones and reasons for joy that is hard to describe especially when you realize that they are the epitome of God's great gifts to mankind. We rejoice at Christmas at the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and thirty three years later experience a totally different kind of joy at the death and resurrection of that same individual. Each of these events had their own uniqueness and certainly reminds us of the great love that our Heavenly Father has for us.

The blessings of Easter are meant for us to enjoy each and every day of our lives. Certainly we never tire of hearing the message of what God has done for us in raising Jesus from the dead. God wants us to live each day with the faith in the risen Christ and with the eternal hope he has made sure for us.

Scripture reminds us that we were buried with Christ by baptism into death, that like as he was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in the newness of life. In John 10:10 Jesus said "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full". Without his life and death, there is no such thing as a genuinely full life. Jesus carries it one step farther when he says in John 11:2 "I am the resurrection and the life". With these words he directs our thoughts to eternity and to the everlasting life that he alone is able to give.

How then can we show our love to him in return? By following his example of love and obedience we can encourage and console one another as Christ did. We can demonstrate the same kind of affection and sympathy that he had, especially for the troubled. We can honor his name by doing what is right and showing mercy to our fellow man, as he showed mercy to us.

So, Jesus lived for you, died for you, and on Easter Sunday morning, he brought this whole story about both life and death to a grand climax with his exit from the grave. Now he promises to each of us personally

and individually, "Because I live, you also will live". (John 14:19)

Let Easter give constant strength, courage and confidence to our faith. It reminds us that we have a risen and living Lord who cares for us, provides for all our needs, and forgives our sins daily.

Finally, when it is time for us to depart this life, let us hold firmly to the hand of our victorious Savior. Our hearts will then be comforted, knowing that we shall ever be with the Lord.

God's Blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

By Leslie Nelson



Darla and Joe Cucchi come to us from Branson, Missouri. While investigating various areas of Florida for their retirement home, they spotted a billboard advertising

The Villages. After a little research online and several visits, their home in the Village of Charlotte is a dream come true.

Joe was born in St. Louis, and Darla was born in Kennett, MO, but actually raised in St. Louis, also. Eventually the couple moved to Lake of the Ozarks and then on to Branson. Darla was baptized and later confirmed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis. Joe was baptized at Carondelet Evangelical Reform Church and confirmed in Carondelet Presbyterian Church, both in St. Louis.

Darla attended Roosevelt High School and later in life went back to school for a nursing degree. Joe graduated from Cleveland High School in St. Louis and continued his education by studying business and business law. They met during their high school years. Years later their paths crossed again. They dated again and were married 36 years ago at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in St. Louis.

The Cucchis have two daughters: Christine, who is happy to be single; and Lisa, who has given them two grandchildren. Emily will graduate from high school in May, and Dylan is 14. They all reside in St. Louis.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Darla has been working as an RN up until this year. Joe worked as Vice President of a construction firm. When they moved to Lake Ozark he opened his own commercial and residential construction company, which also did fire and water damage restoration. One of his projects was a Gucci store. The sign read, "Another Gucci by Cucchi." Twelve years later they moved to Branson, where Joe worked as Senior Sales Manager for Bluegreen Resorts until his retirement last October.

Joe's favorite foods include seafood and Italian dishes. Darla likes those, too, and would add a little chocolate, please! She reads Karen Kingsbury and Christian fiction and non-fiction. Joe's favorite book is The Bible. He is still looking for his favorite movie or TV program! Of course, Darla likes the medical shows, i.e., Bones and ER. Her favorite movies are E. T. and The Sound of Music. They keep busy with golf, and Darla also enjoys walking, zumba and yoga.

Guess which one took flying lessons in a 2-seat Cessna! You'll have to ask them.

All glory to the Lord for bringing another fine couple into our Open Bible family.

WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

Our monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, April 10th at 1 pm. Election of officers will be held at this meeting and also last minute planning for the ladies luncheon. Audrey Hoerchner and Gail Rathgeber are the hostesses for the April meeting. All ladies are welcome.

Thank you to all the ladies who helped with all the Lenten suppers, the two concerts in March and Friendship Sunday. These events wouldn't have been so successful without your support.

SALAD LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW



It is just a few days until the 4th Annual Spring Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show Friday April 12th.

The luncheon starts at 12:30 pm followed by the wonderful Fashion Show at 1:30 pm. Fashions are provided by BonWorth. Please sign up at the Kitchen pass-through or call Sandy Hahm at 352-

350-1510. RSVP by April 1st. Be sure to let us know how many are in your party as seating is limited.

At our last meeting the committee finalized the worship services for Holy Week. The procession of palms by the choir and the waving of the palms by our members during the processional certainly made an impression on our worshipers. Our Good Friday services will also be special and will impress each worshiper that it was also our sins that nailed Christ to the cross. Then let us all be filled with joy as we celebrate the resurrection on Easter morning.

The following reprint of a portion of a paper delivered by Prof. Brug of our Seminary really makes some points as to the importance of good textual hymns in our worship services. I hope that you enjoy it and then think about our hymns that we sing each Sunday.

The Power of Hymnody

Nothing matched the power of the Gospel in word and sacrament to plant and nourish faith in the heart. Nothing matches the power of the preaching and proclamation to plant the truths and the emotions of the Gospel in the heart. But of all the secondary tools that support the proclamation and retention of the Gospel nothing surpasses the power of hymnody. By hymnody I am not referring merely to the fact that over a lifetime of worship we accumulate a storeroom of hymns that are tied to the rites of the church year and to events of our lives. The hymn becomes attached to the event and the hymn in turn attaches the event to our memories.

I was reminded of this recently as I sat near the front of the church as Lutheran Christians marched by me to receive the Lord's Supper. As they passed many of them were not just marching, but they were singing, "Lord may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good." In the beginning the stanzas were there too. "I come, O Savior to your table...": Unworthy though I am, O Savior..." As we got deeper into the hymn, the marchers needed the prompt of the first line before they could join in. Finally all that was left was, "Lord may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good." The refrain had attached itself to the heart and had the power to reinforce the meaning of the event.

When I was growing up it was not Lent until we sang, "Jesus I will ponder now on thy holy passion. With thy Spirit me endow for such meditation." "Ah! I also and my sin wrought thy deep affliction. This indeed the cause has been of your crucifixion."...

I am sure our son does not remember his first emotional encounter with the power of Lutheran hymnody. We were attending the communion service of the Michigan District Convention in Saginaw, Michigan. He was a small baby in arms, a few months old, resting quietly. As the large assembly broke out in "Lord thee I love," his eyes got as big as saucers and his head popped up but he did not cry. An auspicious introduction to the power of Lutheran hymnody!...

Sometimes the memories are the accumulation of a lifetime. More rarely they may come from a single hearing. I can still hear a song that I heard only once more than forty years ago, "Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray here at your altar on our wedding day."

It does not matter so much whether a family's Thanksgiving memories are turkey and dressing or lutefisk and lefse or pizza but it does matter whether or not they have memories cemented in their minds. It does not matter whether the specific hymn that marks the milestones of your life and mine are the same or different, old or new, but it does matter whether we have such milestones and such memories.

It is not a pastor's responsibility to create such milestones and memories for his people, but it is his responsibility to create the environment in which such memories can grow and thrive. Above all, the pastor must be a student of the Bible and the catechism and he must always remain a student of the hymnal....

Lutheran Christians hope that the last words of their life will be a passage or a prayer but it would not be so bad if the last words were a hymn, "Lord, let at last your angels come, to Abram's bosom bear me home, that I may die unfearing...."

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Our church council met for its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 21st. Most of the council action has been covered in Pastor's updates so I won't repeat them here. However, I would like to share with you our financial position as of the end of February.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Monthly offerings/income | YTD |
| \$25,902.98 | \$46,970.20 |
| Monthly Expenses | |
| \$17,190.60 | \$29,650.19 |
| Positive for month | \$8,712.38 |
| | \$17,320.01 |

The Lord has truly opened the hearts of our members as they express their thankfulness through their offerings.

Our mortgage with LACE now stands at \$447,533.

The Lord is also blessing us spiritually with excellent sermons and worship opportunities. We are growing and our weekly attendance has been averaging 170+ for the past few weeks.

We are a church on the move! Praise the Lord.

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for staffing the Nursery on Sunday morning should the need arise. Now since so many of you will be going back north for the summer, we are in need of volunteers again. Please contact Ina Taylor at 401-580-7772 and let her know when you will be available for the spring and summer months. Thank you.

THANK YOU

I want to express my thanks to all of my wonderful Christian friends at Open Bible. Your prayers and encouragement have meant so much to me. I am halfway through my treatments—six down and six to go. By mid-June I will be finished with my treatments—God willing. By mid-August, I should be running on all cylinders. I am privileged to be a member of Open Bible with such a caring group of Christians. I thank God for all of you. To God be the glory! Love, Judy Anderson

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| April | Joan Blaho |
| May | Carol Stauske |
| June | Jeri Leeper & Sharon Sanner |
| July | Barb Matthias |
| August | Sally Langer |
| September | Mary Burel |
| October | Judy Anderson |
| November | Sally Stocks |
| December | Audrey Hoerchner |

BUDGET UPDATE – by Les Stauske, Treasurer

As many of you are aware we have installed a new accounting system called “Power Church” which gives us a wonderful way to integrate contributions, expenses and to track special funds.

This is a report on the first quarter activities, through March 28th, and is not intended to be a solicitation for contributions.

We are right on track with the 2013 Budget that was approved by the Voters Assembly this past January. Contributions for the first three months have met and exceeded our expenses, which will prepare us for the summer months when our “friends from the north” are gone.

A dishwasher has been added utilizing the Memorial Fund contributions in memory of Doug Hartshorn. Also, a banner stand has been ordered utilizing the Memorial Fund contributions in memory of Marilyn Acklam and an Easter banner has been purchased and partially paid for by the Women of Open Bible.

Thirty five chairs have been ordered for the sanctuary and should be delivered soon.

The following is a summary of Special Funds set up in this year’s budget and their status:

| <u>Fund</u> | <u>Amount needed</u> | <u>Amount Available</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Chairs for Sanctuary | \$8,052.80 | \$ 7,250.00 |
| 2. Risen Savior Statue | \$9,000.00 (approx) | \$ 250.00 |
| 3. Nativity Scene | \$ 600.00 | \$ 4 .01 |
| 4. Sign Fund | not yet known | * \$ 3,031.13 |
| 5. Flower Fund | \$190/month | \$ 240.00 |
| 6. Relief Fund | unknown | \$ 1,839.09 |
| 7. Food Bank | no set limit | \$ 50.00 |
| 8. Quilters | \$100.00 | \$ 20.00 |
| 9. Concert Fund | no set amount | \$ 1,601.95 |
| 10. Building Fund | not yet known | \$50,855.00 |
| 11. Tech Fund | no set amount | (\$ 240.00) |
| 12. Memorial Fund | no set amount | \$ 1,284.24 |
| 13. Women of Open Bible | \$1,950.00 | \$ 1,949.32 |

* Hartshorn Memorial Fund

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bob & Sharon Sanner - 7
 Ted & Sandy Hahm – 15
 Jim & Marion Petrie - 16
 John & Janice Walters - 18
 Ron & Joanne Stuedemann - 27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Morganne Langer – 2
 Gene McConkey – 4
 Norma Phillips - 5
 Jim Petrie - 6
 Jerry Brooks - 10
 Walt Farnsworth - 10
 Barb Matthias - 11
 Richard Langer Sr. – 16
 Shane Thise – 20
 Marion Petrie - 22
 Bill Stocks - 22
 Mike Butzow – 23
 Huns Gustrowsky – 27
 Pastor Dale – 29