



NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2015

Volume11, No 8

FROM THE PASTOR

Open Bible On The Move

Open Bible is gearing up for a big fall season. We continue to be a congregation that is in the Word. Beginning in September, our Wednesday in the Word study will focus on the people in David's life and ours. Our Sunday morning Early Bird study will have the topic: Job: Compassion in Calamity.

There will be two Bible studies during the week for women led by Judy Anderson and Pam Riches. Don't forget the monthly meetings of the Women of Open Bible, who gather for spiritual growth, social activities, and service to our congregation. Dennis Duessler will oversee the men's breakfast study as they consider, "19 Minutes with the Messiah". The 466A group will look at a video driven study by Pastor Mark Jeske, entitled, "I Need To Change." The North County group led by Alan and Pam Johnson, will be meeting twice a month on Sunday nights as they look at particular Bible books. Our book club will read 9 books over the next 9 months. These books will be discussed on the last Tuesday of each month. Check out our website for listings from September-December 2015.

If you are a member with specific needs, Open Bible is there to help you. Pastor Schulz will be leading the new and updated, 12 session, "Grief Share" video driven study in September. One of our members recently requested that this support group meet again, since worldly counsel just doesn't make it when you lose a loved one in death. If you are a Single adult looking for interaction with other singles, Pastor Dale oversees a group called, "SPLASH", Single people loving and serving him. They meet monthly for spiritual growth, recreation, and service. If you have an interest in knitting, crochet, and embroidery, there is the Happy

Hearts group led by Sandy Pawlowski. If you want to practice your 2nd Amendment rights, the Defenders, meet monthly for target practice, fellowship, and prayer.

Finally, Open Bible does have groups that are geared for recreation and fellowship with other Christians. On Friday mornings, there is a 9 hole golf group called, "The Friday Fore-Giving Golfers". In addition, there is a congregational fellowship group that plans monthly activities. The group is considering progressive dinners by area.

In September, our Elders are putting together a day when you can come to church and see displays set up by these various groups. You will have an opportunity to see exactly what everyone is doing and how you can get involved. Our Elders also plan to make available a spiritual gifts survey for everyone to take, so you can find areas to serve at Open Bible where you are most suited to do so.

Right now, there are 8 people who are taking our Adult information class with Pastor Schulz either at church or in their homes. The harvest field is extremely ripe, and there is a wonderful harmony and support for ministry that is seen in our membership.

Our building committee will be soon submitting ideas to you, in regards to addressing our need for more fellowship, classroom, office, and storage space. These are exciting times at Open Bible. Happy 12th Anniversary to a great congregation!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

From the President,

All of us at numerous points and times in our lives have witnessed some form of a miracle sent from God. Every time we hear a new born baby cry, witness a baptism or

partake of the Lord's Supper, just to name a few, we are encountering a part of God's creation; one of His greatest miracles of all.

Miracles themselves have been described as special acts of God that interrupt the natural course of events. They are also described as events which may seem contrary to nature, and signify an act in which God reveals himself to man. In the Bible, Nicodemus asks Jesus, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs [miracles] that you do unless God is with him" (John 3:2). Peter also declares this when he says, "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know" (Acts 2:22). Regardless of the definition, God wants us to believe and trust Him for what to us is impossible.

Miracles followed Jesus's life. He was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived his entire life without sinning. During his three years of ministry, Jesus taught and spoke with thousands of people. He performed numerous miracles that we are all familiar with. He healed the sick, drove out demons, and raised the dead. Jesus grabbed people's attention with what he said and what he did. When he taught, people were amazed and he backed up his words with miracles. He was able to do these because he was the eternal, all-powerful God. Christ's resurrection is the most amazing of all miracles recorded in the Bible. It is the greatest tribute to God's grace and power. God sent his eternal Son to die for all sinners. He (Jesus) saved us from the wrath of God. He snatched us out of the jaws of hell. He successfully overcame sin, death, and hell for us. Christ's resurrection proves that he paid for all our sins. (For him to be willing to enter our world and suffer the penalty we rightly deserved is a miracle that is so amazing it defies our comprehension).

Thankfully, God isn't limited by what we humans conceive as possible. Our God is the God of the impossible. He can accomplish works that go completely beyond our human experiences. He is the God of the supernatural, as well as of the natural. How blessed we are that our God isn't limited by the confines of human experience. How wondrous our God is, because he isn't bounded by what we conceive as possible. God can do for us what appears to be beyond

our reach. We have this assurance written in His Word, and that's no small miracle.

God's blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

OPEN BIBLE DOCTRINE AND POLICY REGARDING MARRIAGE

Doctrine and Policy Regarding Marriage Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Bible teaches that marriage was established and given by God at the time of creation. As he designed and instituted it, marriage is a life-long union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6). It is a relationship that is to be honored and kept pure (Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:22-33). As a man and woman promise life-long faithfulness to each other as husband and wife, God himself joins them as one. Marriage is not simply a contract between two consenting individuals, nor is it merely a creation of human society, culture, or tradition. God himself instituted marriage at the time of creation, and God himself joins a man and women in marriage today. The biblical teachings on marriage emphasizes the blessings God intends to convey to those joined together in the marital relationship. Through marriage God provides partners well suited and complementary to one another. In marriage, God provides a partner who will provide encouragement and support. Marriage is also to be the God-ordained means to procreate and to establish a stable environment in which children can be nurtured both physically and spiritually. Marriage is the one context God intended for the use of the blessing of sexual intimacy, where the sexual union of one man and woman is an expression of love and oneness rather than a sinful satisfaction of lust. Finally, since we live in a fallen world, in marriage God provides a restraint for selfishness and sin as each partner strives to live the pure life that God intends for his people (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

This is the Bible's teaching about the origin, definition, and nature of marriage. For that reason it is also the

doctrine of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Every congregation and called worker accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice. That marriage is the God-ordained union of one man and one woman is the clear teaching of the Bible, and therefore is the teaching and confession of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The policy and practice of Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church, a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is consistent with the synod's beliefs and teachings regarding marriage. We believe that marriage is the sacred, life-long union between one man and one woman. Therefore, our pastors will not officiate in any marriage ceremony or celebration and our church sanctuary may not be used for any activities related to a marriage ceremony or celebration that is inconsistent with these beliefs.

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

INGEBORG HOLZMANN



Ingeborg Holzmann
We'd like to welcome Ingeborg Holzmann as a new member of Open Bible. Ingeborg was born in Berlin, Germany after the war and lived with her family in Bavaria in a village high in the Alps. Later she lived in Rosenheim, a small town in Bavaria. She was baptized in Berlin and confirmed in Rosenheim; she met and married her husband of 56 years in Chicago. They have one daughter, Iris, and a grandson, Alexander. Some of her favorite things are pork roast and dumplings and old movies. She attended nursing school and worked at various hospitals and for a doctor in Chicago for nine years. After nursing school and at the age of nearly 40, Ingeborg received a Master of Music in voice from Roosevelt Music College and sang in Chicago and the

suburbs for about twenty years. She says, "I am not a famous opera person and never sang with a famous opera company." However, she sang arias or songs, especially in German and also gave recitals. This included solos in Mozart's Requiem and Hydn's Creation.

In 1978 Ingeborg went to Germany to audition in Koeln, Berlin, and Munich and received positive encouragement. In Munich famous Mezzo Hertha Topper offered Ingeborg the opportunity to study with her; Topper and her husband Mira, who had directed the Munich Opera Company, assured her of acceptance into the company. But as it turned out, Ingeborg had to turn down the offer because of family matters. Upon arriving in The Villages, Ingeborg was contacted by Conductor Pasquale, director of the concert choir at the Church on the Square, and she sang in the Chorale for 6 years. Even though she has a hearing problem today, she can still sing. "God was good to me," she said. "He balanced my family life with my musical endeavors."

We welcome Ingeborg to Open Bible and look forward to hearing her voice with songs and praises to the Lord.

Submitted by Betty DeWitz

MISSION FESTIVAL



SUNDAY AUGUST 2ND – Pastor Josh Sternhagen, WELS missionary at St. John's in Antigua will be our guest preacher.

After the worship service Pastor Sternhagen and his wife, Kristin will have a presentation on their experiences serving in Antigua.

A light luncheon will follow the presentation.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

August 1st the Worship Committee will have an in depth discussion of the first 3 chapters of the Christian Worship Manual.

SUNSHINE & REHAB COMMITTEE

This committee will primarily visit members in the hospital and rehab facilities to “Share God’s Love” and let members know they have the support and prayers from their family at Open Bible.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please speak to Jim Johnson.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee has taken off for the summer but plans are underway for this fall. The new Coordinators will be Joe & Paula Malec and Dan & Karen Pearson.

The Fellowship Committee is asking for your help in deciding activities for the fall and spring season. A short survey will be sent out via email or placed in your mailbox soon.

GROWING IN THE WORD SUNDAY

Members of small bible study groups:

This fall (September) there is a tentative plan of having a special Sunday with a theme dedicated to encouraging all of us to get more involved and growing in God’s word and enjoying fellowship with one another. The Pastor’s message will include this theme, and then after the service each of the small bible study groups will have a display set up in the fellowship area

explaining their group and encouraging/promoting members to join their group.

Would you please help us make this happen? We need your input and Ideas.

Some ideas so far:

- Have people at each display answer questions about their group
- Have signs displayed with general information
- Have handouts explaining the different groups with and dates and times in the bulletin ????

Would you help us with:

- More ideas
- Help with signs
- Help with displays, setup, and help on Sunday
- Be the coordinator for your group
- Put together information on your group
- Help with small group handouts

Please let us know if you are willing to help and with your ideas and suggestions. Jim Orcutt, 770-289-0366 and Tom DeWitz, 507-384-1306 (Members of Open Bible Board of Elders)

Groups: *Women’s Bible Study, Wednesday in the Word, Sunday Morning Early Bird Study, 466A Study Group, Men of Leisure, Happy Hearts Happy Hands Handiwork, Women of Open Bible, Defenders, Friday Fore-Giving Golfers, Grief-Share, New Life in Christ, Women of Riches, SPLASH, North Country Group, Open Bible Book Club, Fellowship Group.*

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

September thru December 2015

New Life in Christ Class - Taught by Pastor Schulz

A great refresher class on the basic teachings found in God’s Word. This seven week study will look at the natural knowledge of God, the work of Jesus Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit including spiritual gifts, Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, the end of the world with discussions on Judgment Day, Heaven and Hell, church fellowship, the history of the Lutheran Church, and the differences in Lutheran Church bodies today. If a person would like to join Open Bible as a full-time member and is not

already WELS, this class would be a pre-requisite to membership.

The class began on Thursday July 23rd from 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm and will run for 7 weeks.

Sunday Morning Early Bird Study: 8:00-8:45 A.M.

Job: Compassion in Calamity-Study of the Book of Job-God's Word For Today

Why do the just suffer? Where is God in the midst of loss, illness, ridicule and defeat? Those questions probe deeply into the heart of every person, and all too often demand ready answers in our uniquely human, and sometimes painful, experience. Job's true story of God's grace in the midst of his profound suffering will teach you:

- the purpose of adversity in the lives of the faithful;
- the role of Satan regarding our relationship with God;
- the hope and strength we have through the promise of our Redeemer.

September 6th: The Pain and the Puzzle

September 13th: Looking Into Secret Sins: Part 1

September 20th: Looking Into Secret Sins: Part 2

September 27th: Suffering and Prayer

Women's Bible Study – 9 consecutive weeks - Led by Judy Anderson: Tuesdays 1:00pm beginning on September 8th

Golden Fruit - Living the Fruit of the Spirit Through the Best Times of Your Life

This nine-session Bible study helps the Christian woman put all of these roles, characteristics, and emotions into perspective. Each session focuses on one fruit of the Spirit and considers how the lives and stories of nine biblical women convey that characteristic. As you study women like Esther (self-control) and Dorcas (goodness), Ruth (love) and Elizabeth (joy), you'll see how God is at work in your life too and how His promise of salvation and peace through Jesus are fully yours all the time. For individuals and small groups, this Bible study includes questions that dig deep into Scripture and make personal applications of Jesus' gospel to your life.

If you would like to order a copy of the book, please let Judy Anderson know by Sunday, August 30th. Cost will be \$10.00

Wednesday in the Word - Taught by Pastor Schulz

The People in David's Life and in Yours

David was the greatest king of God's Old Testament people, the Israelites. Throughout his life, God used many people to mold David into the man and leader he came to be. This Bible study looks closely at those people, but also helps participants focus on the people God brings into their lives for the same purpose.

September 9th: Samuel-David's Mentor

September 16th: Goliath-The Person Who Made David Famous

September 23rd: Saul-God's Tool of Affliction

September 30th: Jonathan-David's True Friend in Christ

SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him)-

Facilitator is Pastor Dale

The group will be planning activities for the next 3 months, which include some exciting fellowship and recreational activities.

Godly Men of Leisure - Facilitator is Dennis Duessler

The group is discussing a Bible study booklet on some of the issues retired men and men in general face. They meet monthly at Perkins Restaurant off of 466. Their next meeting is on Friday September 11th at 8:30 am.

Women of Riches (Bible Study)- Led by Pam Riches

The Bible study starts Monday, August 24th at 1 pm. It again is "That the World Should Know", vol. 3, of Ray Vander Laan's, Life & Ministry of The Messiah. It is 8 faith lessons, the first two lessons will be combined, so it will go 7 weeks. There is a discovery guide that can be purchased at Family Christian bookstore or Amazon.

The Defenders - Led by Ken Wells and Bill Sigurdson

This group meets twice a month to shoot 50-100 rounds at one of these two places: The Gun Club off 44 near Leesburg and also R/D Tactical Solutions in Ocala. Ken and Bill supply everyone with targets or you can buy one for \$1.25. In Ocala, your spouse can shoot for just \$6.00. The next shoot is August 14th in Ocala and August 28th in Leesburg.

Following the activity, the group has lunch at Beef O' Brady's and devotes time to pray for our country and military. On some months, to save on ammunition costs, the group will look at battles in the book of Judges.

The North County Group - Led by Alan Johnson

These are a group of Open Bible members from the Ocala area who meet twice a month on Sunday nights from 6:30-8:30 pm. They will meet on September 13th and Sunday September 27th at the home of Alan and Pam Johnson. Topics to be announced later.

The 466A Group - Taught by Pastor Schulz

This group will meet once a month on a Tuesday, September 22nd from 2:00-4:00 P.M. At the home of: Tom & Betty DeWitz Topic: I Need To Change: A Video Driven Study led by Pastor Mark Jeske, from Time of Grace Ministries. Each session will begin with a 20 minute message by Pastor Jeske on the specific topic mentioned. The Group will spend time in discussion and application: September 2015: Less Angry, More Gentle: Genesis 4:1-12

Happy Hearts-Happy Hands Handiwork - Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski

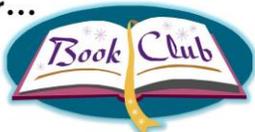
Meets on the First Friday of each month at church from 9:00-12:00 PM. Next meeting **Friday, September 4th**. Group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also does knitting, crochet, and embroidery.

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.

OPEN BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Book Club is for...



...you!

Book Club - Facilitator is Pastor Schulz
Tuesday, September 29th
from 4:00-5:30 P.M. at Open Bible. The Questions

Christians Hope No One Will Ask by Mark Milleberg

What do you say when family and friends start asking difficult questions about your faith? Run and hide? Change the subject? With warmth and openness, Mittelberg tackles the 10 most troubling questions facing today's Christians---and answers them. Discover how to respond to queries about heaven and hell, suffering, homosexuality, the authority of Scripture, and more. This book is 300 pages, softcover from Tyndale. Please let Karen know if you want to order a copy by August 23rd. The approximate cost will be \$15.00.

October 27th, 2015

"Through a Season of Grief" by Bill Dunn and Kathy Lenard

November 24th, 2015

"A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23" by W. Philip Keller

December 29th, 2015

"The Encore Effect" by Mark Sanborn

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

July Council Highlights

The church council met on July 23rd. Following are the highlights from the meeting:

- June income was \$2,846 less than expenses. Year to date income was \$24,810 more than expenses. The mortgage balance as of 6/30/15 was \$392,900.17.
- The following were accepted as new members by transfer:
Tom Dewitz
Betty Dewitz
- Charlotte Cummings was transferred to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City, OK.
- Approval was given to purchase a new Grief Share DVD at a cost of \$300.
- Approval was given to have a dinner for the mission festival scheduled for 8/2/15 and to take a door collection for the Antigua church.
- The statement on marriage and marriage policies for WELS congregations that was developed by Synod

will be put in the newsletter and will also be filed with the church constitution and bylaws.

- The Board of Elders now have a full board of 7 elders with the addition of Tom Dewitz.
- The sign at the entrance to the parking lot that was blown over during a recent storm will be put back up soon.
- It was decided to leave the times for the special church services for this winter (Advent, Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday) the same as they were last year - 5:30pm with a meal for the Advent and Lent services at 4:30pm.
- It was decided to have two Sunday services for only the months of January, February, and March. The services will be at 8:00am and 10:00am with fellowship between the services.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Bill & June Murray – 3
Matthew & Amy Hand – 4
Jerry & Joan Mucci – 11
John & Sherilyn Bielefeldt – 13
Roger & Robin Otto – 14
Bill & Sharon Sigurdson – 17
Keith & Renda Mackey – 21
Earl & Doris Schlicht – 25
Michael & Donna Davis – 28
Jack & Sharon Affeldt - 31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Joe Price - 1
Nikki Mitra – 2
Jim Orcutt – 2
Roger Acklam – 3
Ron Schultz – 3
Jim Musiel – 5
Bill Murray -8
Carol Yahn – 9
Doreen Schaefer – 10
Peggi Carrier – 11
Gail Rathgeber – 11
Marvin Krahn – 14
Alan Johnson – 14
Gordon Roback – 16
Phil Herring – 19
Ron Dahm – 21
Russ Follett – 25
Pat Knack – 25
Sandy Pawlowski – 25
Linda Draeger – 26
Jim Johnson - 30