



# Newsletter



June 2018

Volume 13 No. 6

## From the Pastor by Pastor Mark Schulz

Romans 8:38-39

While at the shore of a lake on a stormy day, I noticed a sailboat anchored about a hundred yards offshore. The wind blew, and the waves beat against that boat, threatening to dash it to pieces on the jagged rocks that lined the shore. But the sailboat, held tightly by the anchor and rope, survived the storm. Soon the storm was over.

As Christians, I am certain that there have been many times when we have felt very much like that sailboat. The storms of life can be pretty fierce. We seem like such a tiny craft in the midst of such a big and cruel lake. The wind and the waves beat against us, threatening to smash us to pieces.

At times like that it is good for us to remember the words of assurance which the Apostle Paul offers us in the words from Romans 8. He reminds us of the fact that as long as God is with us, there is no power on earth and no power in hell that can ever tear us away from him. We have the strongest possible anchor. The storms will still come, but we have the assurance that God will help us ride out those storms. Our boat will never sink, since God is with us always.

This is the same God who has promised us, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." The only way to get out of God's hand is if we jump out. No one, nothing can ever tear us away from God. Someone once

compared life to a trip across the ocean on a slow-moving ship. We go from good weather to bad again and again. God pilots us through stormy seas until we finally reach the safe harbor of heaven where there will be no more storms to bother us.

No one is forcing God to do this, nor do we deserve his protection. He loves us so much that he wants to help us. If he loved us enough to send his Son to die for us, he certainly loves us enough to keep us safe from every earthly storm. Bonds of love tie us, anchor us to him—bonds which will never be broken. "In ev'ry high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand."

## President's Message

It's that time of year again when our winter residents have returned to their homes and everyone pauses for a moment to catch their breath. That doesn't mean the word of God takes a summer vacation, it just means the pace of the past few months is not quite the same.

The month of February saw the near completion of our wonderful new and enlarged fellowship hall and the month of May brought the installation of the sound panels that just about put the final touch on the inside portion of the project. Work still needs to be done on the outside of our property, but plans are

rounding into shape and decisions will be made in the near future. A very big "Thank You" goes out to Les Stauske and all the members of the building committee as well as all the members of our congregation for their generosity and support that helped to make this project a reality. God's love is continually on display in the many wonderful programs and projects that make Open Bible the very special place that it is.

The winter months also brought us four wonderful musical concerts. On November 26 Elizabeth Hainen, a world class harpist and the daughter of Fred and Judy, brought her talents to Open Bible and presented a beautiful afternoon of classical music. This was followed in February by Mr. Stephen Bautista and his daughter. In March the Wisconsin Lutheran Choir as a part of their spring tour came to Open Bible and delighted the audience with a variety of Christian Hymns. Our final concert of the season took place on May 14 when the students from King of Kings Lutheran School of Maitland Fl. presented their annual musical production to the residents of Buffalo Crossings. All of these events were well received by our members and guests as well as members of the general public.

On February fourteenth, Ash Wednesday began our annual Lenten season with this year's theme being "Words of Life from the Cross". It all culminated with a moving Good Friday service entitled "The Fulfilled Word: "It is finished", and then a Beautiful Easter Sunday service entitled "The Vindicated Word:" He is risen"! What a wonderful way to finish a very meaningful Lenten Series and assure us once again what God's great love has done for us. The Lenten season was then capped off by Walt Farnsworth and

crew's annual Easter breakfast which was a treat once again.

Beginning with the first Sunday in May we returned to our regular Sunday Service schedule as well as our weekly Wednesday bible study. The Church Council will soon be analyzing our two Sunday service schedules during the months of January thru April. Any input on our scheduling as well as any other concerns by the congregation are always welcome. Please feel free to speak to any Council member.

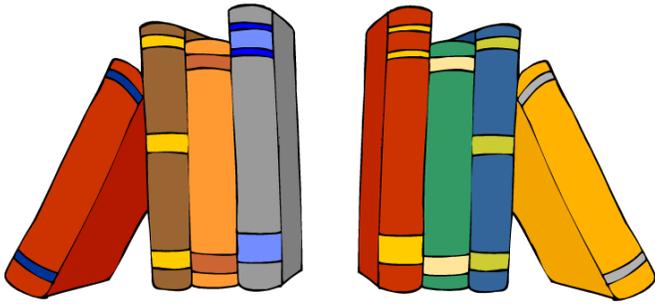
As we look back over the history of Open Bible and especially the past few years, we recognize that much has been accomplished. As we look to the future we also realize that much work remains to be done to further God's Kingdom. The growth of new programs presents new opportunities for service. Working together under God's guiding hand, great things can and will take place at Open Bible.

All God's Blessings,  
Greg Wendorf

## Radio Ministry



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



## Open Bible Library

A reminder that any books that people have out should be returned so they can be added to the list being compiled for our library. Nancy Kuepker has been marking the books as part of the Open Bible Collection and putting pockets in the inside. Check out procedures will be pretty simple. Find a book you are interested in, sign your name, phone number and date on the card, remove it and put it in the box on the shelf. When you are finished return the book to the basket marked for returns. They will be returned to the shelf by the library volunteers. If you have questions, please contact Peggi Carrier. Her phone number is 906-753-4930.

## Bible Stumper Questions of the Month:

### How did Christianity spread to Rome before Paul got there?

Historical records indicate there was already a Jewish community in Rome as early as the second century B.C., but there is little evidence about the origin and early history of the Christian church there. Most likely, some Jews and converts to Judaism from Rome had been in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. Some of these had come to faith in Christ during Peter's sermon that day. Upon returning to Rome, these

believers would have shared the Gospel with others. Even if none of the Roman pilgrims came to faith that day, all roads in the empire eventually led to Rome. As believers moved out of Jerusalem into other areas, they would have arrived in Rome and established a church there. Despite physical distance and cultural differences, Paul felt a kinship with these believers.

### What is meant by "the Way"?

After his arrest in Jerusalem, Paul asked the Roman soldiers if he could address the crowd calling for his death. Amazingly, they agreed, and Paul explained that before he had come to faith in Jesus, he had persecuted the followers of the Way, arresting men and women and throwing them in jail. (Acts 22:4). The Way was the name the early Christian church used for itself. Christians may have started using this designation because of such passages at Isaiah 40:3, which talks about preparing the Way For the Lord, and especially John 14:6, where Jesus refers to Himself as the only way to the Father. The term only appears in Acts.



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is for all the women in a WELS member congregation. It exists to increase awareness of and interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the WELS. It supports both Home and World mission projects. The particular projects that will be sponsored during the year are announced at the LWMS Convention held in June of each year. The

55th Convention will be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin June 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are not ready to make the Convention one of your summer highlights, consider attending the North Florida Circuit Rally of LWMS this fall. Open Bible is hosting the Fall Rally on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. Come find out more about our WELS mission programs and make new friends. Mary Burel is a former Vice President of the North Florida Circuit of LWMS, Peggi Carrier is the Reporter for our congregation, and Jane Valley is the President of our local WinGS group. For more information about the Conference in Green Bay, the Rally in October and activities of the WINGS group just ask these ladies.

## **Small Group Ministry**

### **The Defenders**

Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Jim Johnson  
The Defenders will meet Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Meet at Wolfy's in Ocala, at 11:30am for lunch, then on to R & D Tactical in Ocala for a little target practice.

### **Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork**

Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski  
The next meeting will be held on Friday, in September, 9:00 – noon. This group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also, does knitting, crochet, and embroidery. So, if you have any craft project you are working on, please come and enjoy the fellowship.

### **Journey with Jesus Bible Study**

Led by: Judy Hainen  
Journey with Jesus Bible Study will meet again in September.

### **Fellowship Group**

Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson, Joe & Paula Malec. In May we had our first annual BBQ. It was called KIS-C (Keep it Simple Christian BBQ.) Hot Dogs and Hamburgers were provided, and everyone was to bring a side dish or dessert to pass. We had the grill set up under a small pop-up tent. And it was a good thing because it did rain! We had two sets of bean bag toss/cornhole games set up in the fellowship area. We might have a few game nights planned for the summer months.

**Men of Leisure**—Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler  
This month the meeting will be on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Meet at the Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466.

### **WinGS: Women in God's Service**

Led by: Jane Valley  
The WinGS Womens group meets the second Wednesday of each month September thru May. On Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> the ladies are planning their annual summer lunch. This year they are going to Carrabba's in Ocala. Meeting there at noon. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter near the entrance to the fellowship hall. If you are planning on attending, please sign up so we know how many seats to reserve!  
Our Vice-President Mary Helen Schultz has a few nice trips planned for the Fall/Winter months. Our service project of collecting empty pill containers will continue through the summer. So, if you have any empty and rinsed out pill bottles that you would like to donate, please put them in the box under the LWMS display in the Fellowship Hall.

**SPLASH:** Single People Loving and Serving Him, Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale  
Stay tuned for summer activities!

### **North Country Group**

Facilitator: Alan Johnson  
This Bible Study will be on Sundays, from 6:00 – 8:00pm. This group usually meets at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. They will resume in the fall.

### **Ladies Tuesday Bible Study**

Led by Pam Johnson  
The Ladies Bible Study will meet again in the fall.

**466A Group Bible Study:** The group is led by Pastor Rodger Dale. The group will meet again in the fall.

### **Friday Fore-Giving Golfers**

Facilitator is Sandy Fehlhaber  
This group meets once a week on Friday afternoons 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. Contact Sandy at [jim.fehlhaber@gmail.com](mailto:jim.fehlhaber@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:MalecJoe@gmail.com)

### **Sunrise Saturday Morning Golfers:**

A group has been formed 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. Leslie will be back in the fall to resume as coordinator. If anyone living in The Villages, is interested in filling in for her during the summer months, the group will be very happy! Please contact the church secretary Karen Pearson if you'd like to volunteer.

## **Ephesians 6:2-4**

"Honor your father and mother" – which is the first commandment with a promise- "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Father, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

## **Volunteer Activities**

Able bodied persons are needed to help a widow shop for groceries every other Saturday. Contact the church office if you are available to help.

## **Did You Know?**



**Can Collection:** Bring your "crushed" & "rinsed" cans to church on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2018 Flower Calendar** is located 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.

**Coffee Hour Help:** Open Bible is in need of men and women to help in the kitchen on Sundays for our Fellowship hour. Especially since all our seasonal members have gone back north! Help is needed after the 9:30am Worship Service. Men are welcome to help! Please sign-up today!

## Happy Anniversary

Alan & Pam Johnson - 1  
Gene & Bette McConkey - 3  
John and Janis Liermann - 5  
Frank & Genie Selvey - 7  
Greg & Carol Wendorf - 7  
LeRoy & Jane Valley - 7  
Jerry & Mary Brooks - 10  
Ken & Elisabeth Wells - 15  
Tom & Betty DeWitz - 18  
Larry & Ardyce Fronk - 20  
Fred & Judy Hainen - 20  
Ken & Brenda Severa - 20  
Dan & Karen Pearson - 25  
Walt & Bonnie Farnsworth - 25  
Ray & Norma Welch - 28  
Bob & Carol Hinz - 29



## Happy Birthday

June Murray - 1  
Elvin Schlegel - 3  
LeRoy Valley - 4  
Maya Ute Mitta - 4  
Pat Holmes - 5  
Joanne Stuedemann - 7  
Jane Valley - 8  
Jeanne Schulz - 9  
Brenda Severa - 11  
Mary Whitford - 11  
Carol Stauske - 12  
Ruth Niermeyer - 13  
Ken Wells - 13  
Elizabeth Koch - 15  
Donna Davis - 17  
Jennifer Schlegel - 19  
Frank Selvey - 21  
Sandy Richesson - 23  
John Kiewra - 25  
Ardyce Fronk - 27  
Mary Brooks - 29  
Ted Hahm - 29  
Norma Welch - 29



**Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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**"Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known"**  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)  
[www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com](http://www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com)



Sundays 11:05 – 11:30am

**Personal Hearing Assistance Devices** are available during services at Open Bible. "The Hearing Loop System" is also installed. Please turn your hearing aid or cochlear implant to "T" (Telephone.)



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