

LENTEN SERVICES

Names of Wondrous Love

During our Lenten Journey in 2013 we are considering the names by which our Savior has been called on the pages of Scripture. Each name will point to an important truth that we will want to take home each week. Our Lenten services this year are at 4:00 and 6:00 pm. A light supper will be served between 4:45-5:45 pm.



Here is a listing of the Names of Wondrous Love we will consider each week during Lent:

March 6 th	King - John 18:33-37
March 13 th	Christ Crucified - John 19:16-18
March 20 th	The Way - Luke 23:39-43
Maundy Thursday	The Lamb-Revelation 5:6-10
Good Friday	The Alpha and the Omega-John 19:30
Easter	The Light-John 20:1,2,11-18

Maundy Thursday Worship at 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Good Friday Worship at 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Easter Worship

Sunrise Song Service: 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast: 8:00 am

Easter Festival Worship: 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR

Sharing Christ

About 40 years ago a retired Lutheran pastor and his wife drowned in a canal near Miami. Their car was struck from behind by a drunken driver and went 145

feet off the road into a canal. A number of people witnessed the accident, but not one person made any effort to rescue the couple.

A Florida state trooper later commented: "Five or six men stood on the canal bank and saw the couple in the car before it sank to the bottom of the canal. No one made any effort to help the couple as they struggled to free themselves from their sinking car. Maybe they couldn't have saved them, but I know I could not watch two people dying and not try to save them."

God gives us all many opportunities to save other people from spiritual death by telling them of the love of Jesus Christ. Every Christian probably knows people who don't know that Jesus suffered, died, and rose for them. If those people die in their sins, they will perish.

We cannot really save everybody; however, we can make every effort to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it alone is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.

On Palm Sunday, March 24th, we are having another Friendship Sunday at Open Bible. Here is an opportunity for you to share Christ with one of your friends. Start thinking now about whom you might invite to church on that day. Spend time with that person. Get to know them better. Pray for them. Pray that they might be open to your invitation. Pray that they might know the wonderful Savior that you and I already know.

As many of you know, I am a very driven pastor. I have a passion that more souls be part of God's family forever. So whenever I propose any ministry idea here at Open Bible, any new program, it is for the purpose of building a bridge to the unchurched so we might share Christ with them or to strengthen the faith of present members and their connectiveness to one another. Recently, I was asked by our Synod to oversee a weekly blog at breadforbeggars.com. The blog that I oversee is called, "At the Well". If you would like to interact with me weekly on the net with ideas to reach the lost, feel free to share on the blog. I am hoping to gain some new insights from others, and plug some of those ideas into our work at Open Bible. Go Open Bible!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sunday, March 24th marks the second of our Friendship Sundays under the direction of Pastor Schulz. We held our first in November hoping to encourage guests to possibly return and worship with us at Christmas and are now preparing for our second to possibly again encourage guests to worship with us at Easter. You could almost say we observe one of these special Sundays weekly by the number of visitors that continue to “check us out” on a frequent basis.

Designated “Friendship Sundays” are a bit different in that we are all given the opportunity and encouraged to serve as God’s ambassadors, just as his first disciples were. As Jesus sent out those disciples, he assured them that they were not alone; he was standing with them as they carried out his work. In Matthew 10:40 he assured them “He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me”. And so it is with us as Jesus and his Father stand with us as we do the work God has entrusted us to do. That work should take on a couple of dimensions.

First, we should live our lives with the understanding that what we do is observed by those around us, and this visible life makes a statement about our God. He said “ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”(Matthew 5:16). As God’s ambassadors, show his kindness and love to others by the way you live your life. Be always ready to give the reason for your way of life and the hope that motivates you.

The second dimension is to develop the confidence to speak to people about what you know and believe about your Lord and Savior. It doesn’t take a special talent or ability. Remember, God doesn’t call the gifted; he gives gifts to the called. It’s important to broadcast the Gospel and Christian faith. Speak to what people need to hear. Meet them where they are. Speak their language and give them strength for living each day. What’s important is not the form of the effort, but the fact of the effort.

Those in attendance at our New Year’s Eve communion service will remember Pastor Schulz encouraging us to be witnesses for Christ. His words reminded us to do what we can today and not to worry about yesterday or tomorrow. Christ will give you the power to handle the situations of today. He has given us the word that we can use to assure them of forgiveness of sin, peace with God and eternal joy. It should give us great joy to bring

the unchanging Word of God, the one thing that really matters to people in every condition. Christ has given his Word to all believers, a precious trust to have and to share until his return. We all need to cling to, abide in, and gladly share the eternal Word of Truth!

There is not a place in the entire scope of our existence where God is not there. He has been and always will be present in our lives. As stewards and/or ambassadors of God’s gifts to us we can take nothing with us to heaven except other souls. Let’s take as many as possible.

God’s blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

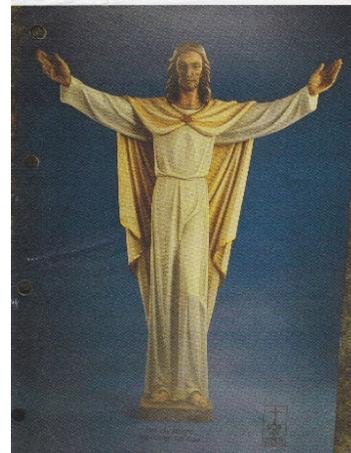
THE RISEN CHRIST

SPECIAL FUNDING PROJECT

During our annual meeting in January, the church council mentioned the number of opportunities available to the congregation to participate in special funding projects. Pastor Schulz in his February 22nd Kneemail also made mention of the possibility of targeting specific memorials for a special project of purchasing a beautiful five foot figure of “The Risen Christ” that would be placed at the back of church above the entry way. We have already been blessed with a wonderful Nativity Scene that is on display during the Christmas season. Our plan is to hopefully replace the Nativity Scene after the Christmas season with “The Risen Christ” which would then be on display for the remainder of the year.

We would like to start this process in the near future and are asking our members to consider participating in this project. Please find included with this note a picture of the Risen Christ to be purchased. We thank you in advance for any and all consideration.

The Church Council



WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

By Leslie Nelson



Audrey Hoerchner was born into the Graese family in the small town of Bonduel, Wisconsin, but moved from there to Milwaukee at about age 2. She was baptized at Siloah Lutheran Church and attended 1st and 2nd grade

at Atonement Lutheran School, both in Milwaukee. Then the family moved to a suburb, and Audrey attended Congress Street Public Grade School. She graduated from Custer High School and was confirmed and married at Atonement Church.

After high school, Audrey worked as a secretary at Master Lock Company until she married Wayne Hoerchner in 1952. The young couple moved to Madison where Wayne attended the University of Wisconsin. Audrey worked for the Department of Agriculture until their first child, a son, was born. A daughter was also born while they lived in Madison. After a few years they moved back to Milwaukee, where they remained for 18 years. During these years the Lord blessed the Hoerchners with another boy and 2 more girls.

After another move, to Cedarburg where they remained for 4 years, they finally settled in Menomonee Falls, where Audrey has lived for the last 35 years! Audrey has 16 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren so far, all living in Wisconsin. Wayne passed away in 1980 after suffering with multiple sclerosis for a number of years.

Audrey doesn't find much time for reading but when she does pick up a book, it is usually a true story or a biography. Her favorite type of food is Mexican, and she will go to any type of restaurant as long as she doesn't have to cook. Her favorite movies are "Sound of Music" and "Les Miserables." She also enjoys Broadway musicals, including "Phantom of the Opera." Her TV watching is limited, but she does like documentaries, Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, CNN News and some movies.

Audrey loves to travel and really likes cruising! She enjoys bike riding and has done many week-long bike tours in Iowa, Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, San Juan Islands and Europe. Pickleball and bowling round out

her athletic endeavors, except for her *horrible* game of golf. She is a snowbird, spending summers in Menomonee Falls where she can relax with family and friends and enjoy the weather. She has spent the last 10 winters in The Villages (Village of Woodbury.) She thoroughly enjoys her church family at Open Bible, participating in Women of Open Bible, Altar Guild and other activities. She is an Associate Member with us, as her church home is Bethlehem Lutheran in Menomonee Falls.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday, February 21st at 9:00 am.

Action taken by the council included the following:

- Acceptance of new full-time members; Joe and Darla Cucchi, Ann Lind and Ted and Sandy Hahm. With these new members we now have 112 communicants and 119 baptized members. Please welcome our new members.
- It was decided to place a large ad in the Daily Sun announcing our service schedules for Holy Week and Easter.
- Approved a request from a youth group in the Twin Cities (MN) area to do a mission project for our congregation on June 26th. We will provide housing for these 15 students plus their chaperons the evening of June 25. The leaders happen to be Pastor Dales daughter and son-in-law
- A new procedure was initiated for giving out monies from the Relief Fund. In the future, Pastor will seek approval from a two member committee, made up of the President and Vice President, when requests come in.

The council met on Thursday, February 28th, for a special meeting to go through the constitution and by-laws. Changes are required in order to accommodate our growing congregation. These changes will be given to the congregation for final approval.

The financial report for the month of January showed the following:

Total contributions = \$21,068.69
Total Expenses = \$12,659.14
Positive balance of = \$8,409.55

The Lord is showering Open Bible with new members, good messages, and positive support. Thanks be to Him.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee held its monthly meeting on February 7. We again had a full agenda but the main items of discussion at the meeting dwelled on the Lenten services, Holy Week services and Easter Sunday services. As you now know the theme for our Lenten services is: "Names of Wondrous Love." The Passion History will be read by pastor and the congregation, the hymns will enhance the Wondrous Name for the service.

Holy Week services will begin on March 24th when we celebrate Palm Sunday. A discussion was held on the possibility of having a processional of palms at the beginning of the service. Pastor is looking into this. This is also our second Friendship Sunday so begin thinking about whom you may invite to worship with you. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 4 and 6 pm. Holy Communion will be celebrated in both services on Maundy Thursday. The theme for the Good Friday service will be, "The Nails of the Cross." The high point of Holy Week will be on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Discussion was held on adding soloists or a small group of singers to our services when the choir is not singing. We also discussed using variations on the singing of the Psalm.

The WELS Connection will be shown on a portable screen in the front of church to see if this is the best place for all to see the video.

A discussion of the liturgies that we commonly use each Sunday was held. If any changes are made or a portion deleted the organist will be notified in advance. As the worship leader, Pastor has the final say when any change is suggested or made.

Strong Bible based messages, a warm welcoming of visitors, and excellent music are the three main items that bring visitors back. The pastor will do his part on preaching a strong Bible based message, our choirs and organists will do their parts with the music and we all can do our part by being welcoming to all of our visitors.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Fellowship Committee hosted its second annual game night for our congregation on Saturday evening,

February 23. Thirty-three of our members and friends took the opportunity for fellowship and fun that evening. The most popular game seemed to be Sheepshead. An added activity was given to all as they arrived and that was to pick the winners for seven categories of the Oscar Awards. The winner of this activity was Barb Hartshorn who correctly picked 6 out of the 7 categories. For this Barb received a gift certificate to The Village theaters. Congratulations Barb and a big thank you to all who attended this fun evening and who brought their favorite snacks.

The Fellowship Committee, in conjunction with the Women of Open Bible, hosted the new member welcome and seasonal members recognition on February 3rd. There was an excellent turn out and much delicious food. We thank all the members who brought brunch items, the Women of Open Bible ladies who helped set up the food and made sure that all ran smoothly and all those who helped clean up. This annual activity is well received by our new members. Remember to make all of our new members welcome each and every Sunday.

Because of the busy church schedule for March, two concerts, extra mid-week services, Holy Week services and Easter services and breakfast we have decided not to have a fellowship activity during March.

We will host our next activity sometime in April. Look for details in the bulletin and in the April newsletter.

We are looking for two or more couples to take over for the Andersons and Brutlags, who have been on this committee from its beginning two years ago. If you are interested in taking over the leadership please speak to Ron or Diane.

Ron Brutlag
Fellowship Committee

"IT'S A SMALL WELS AFTER ALL"

Here at Open Bible Lutheran Church, people come from all over the country. Florida is home to transplants and the guest visitors, who want to winter in the warm sunshine.

It does not take very long from the time one comes through the doors of Open Bible to know they are welcome and what a special person they are. The members are happy to see them and embrace them with open arms. Wanting each person to feel at home, questions are asked, like, "do you live in the area?" If visiting, "where are you from?" Even if you say

California, North Dakota, or Rhode Island, they will be matched up with a member from their home state. Name tags are worn by all our members and each visitor will be given one and be called by their name.

How often does it happen that one person knows someone or they are related to someone else they know? They come from another WELS Church more often than you think. As sung by Chris Driesbach at a recent concert, "It is a Small WELS After All!"

One recent Sunday, a couple visited OBLC from our sister congregation, New Hope, in Melbourne, FL. Hugs were exchanged by two ladies who met in the early 1940's, over 65 years ago. They had attended the same Christian Day School.

Open Bible has two other ladies, as members, who attended the very same school. All four ladies were students and graduated from St Lucas Ev. Lutheran School in Milwaukee, WI. They shared some wonderful memories of their school.

They remembered the times, as children, when their pulse was racing, the butterflies in their tummies, as the nervousness took over knowing it was recitation time. Morning scripture, assigned prayers or psalms, the bible history lessons, the six chief parts of Luther's Catechism or all the verses to the weekly hymn.

In our youth, perhaps, we were not as thankful for our parents, our Pastors or our teachers for the Christian education we were receiving. In our Golden years, we truly know how blessed we are and have been by this marvelous education. There we learned in The Third Article, I believe that I cannot, by my own reason or strength, believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers and will at the Last Day raise up me and all the dead and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

These ladies were called through Baptism, enlightened in a Christian home, Christian School's Confirmation class, Bible classes, and Church attendance. Sanctified in whatever they do out of love toward God by faith in Christ Jesus and kept, yes kept through all these years.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

This was a great reunion at Open Bible one Sunday morning for these four ladies. Oh, what an awesome

reunion it will be for all believers the day we are with our God in Paradise.



Pictured left to right:
Jo Ann (Delebeck), Goelzer, Class of 1950
Joanne (Hinckle) Studeman, Class of 1957
Mary (Siegel) Brooks, Class of 1952
Doreen (Schaetzke) Schaefer, Class of 1949

LADIES LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW



The Women of Open Bible present their 4th Annual Spring Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show on Friday, April 12th at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Fashions will be provided by BonWorth. RSVP by April 1st to Sandy Hahm at 352-350-1510 or watch for the sign up sheet in the kitchen pass through in the near future.

All ladies of Open Bible are invited and bring a friend!

'THE BIBLE' MINI-SERIES

NEW MINI-SERIES BEGINNING MARCH 3, 2013

"The Bible" is an epic five-week, 10-hour television mini-series premiering March 3rd, 2013 on the History Channel. The final episode of the series will air on Easter Sunday and will feature the death and resurrection of Jesus.

If you watch this mini-series and have any questions on what was presented, just email your questions to Pastor Schulz for a response.

PALM & LILY PLANTS FOR EASTER

The Altar Guild will again be purchasing Palm plants for Palm Sunday, March 24th & Easter lily plants for Easter Sunday, March 31st. If you would like to help us purchase these plants, please give your donation to the church by **Sunday, March 10th**. A donation of \$10.00 per plant is appreciated. You may pay in cash or write a check to Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church & indicate the amount for the Flower Fund. If you have questions, contact Carol Stauske at 352-292-3079, or Bonnie Farnsworth at 352-286-9393.



SPRING RALLY SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH

All ladies please note: You are invited to learn more about our Siberian ministry, via Skype with Ben Foxen, at a rally at Crown of Glory Church in Orlando beginning at 10 am. Check-in and coffee hour begin at 9 am. This church is easy to find, being located just off the Turnpike in the West Metro area known as Windemere. The address of the church is 2101 S. Apopka Vineland Rd., Orlando. It would be fun if at least 4 of us could form a carpool, and even better if we could have many cars full going! For more information, call Leslie Nelson, your LWMS Reporter, at 352-753-2484 or sign up on the sheet located in the kitchen pass through. Even if you cannot attend, please pray for our Lutheran missionaries and their families and support their efforts through your individual mission offering.

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE FOR 2013

March	Leslie Nelson
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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Sally Langer – 4
James Malone – 5
Bonnie Farnsworth – 7
Pam Johnson – 7
Ty Miter – 8
Betty DeWitz – 17
Greg Wendorf – 26
Dianne Occhetti – 27
Robert Sanner – 29
Sharon Sanner – 29

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Bill & Jeri Leeper—17
Jerry & Ina Taylor – 18
Robert & Evelyn Emmons – 24
Jim & Joanie Musiel – 26
Pastor Mark & Jeanne Schulz – 27