



FROM THE PASTOR

Words That Changed Everything! Matthew 28:1-10

In times of shock and grief sometimes the only thing a person can do is just go through the motions. This seems to have been the case with the women as they journeyed to the tomb. It's hard to even imagine everything that was going through their heads. Just days earlier their world had been turned upside down when their dear Lord was arrested, sentenced to death, and violently executed. They witnessed the intense hatred of his tormentors; they saw the blood running down his body; they heard his cry of anguish, and probably even saw the Roman spear pierce Jesus' already lifeless body. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had quickly prepared his body for burial, but now the women wanted to perform this one last act of love for their dear Savior.

But the stone was removed. The tomb was empty! What thoughts rushed through their heads in the seconds before the angel spoke? Is this the wrong tomb? Did someone steal his body? Can it get any worse than this? First Jesus is wrongly condemned to death, and now he won't even get the dignity of a proper burial? But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Those words changed everything.

He has risen, just as he said. You can imagine all of the times that Jesus predicted his resurrection replaying in their minds like flashbacks in a movie. Could it really be? The truth was almost too much for them to digest at once. Is this what he meant?

While it was too much to digest all at once, the Spirit would slowly help them understand. The joy that began that morning would fill their hearts and lives as they proclaimed the good news to others.

The angel's words have changed everything for us as well. Jesus is risen! Your sin is gone! Death has been destroyed! Don't stop looking into the empty tomb, and don't stop telling others what you have seen!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to continue to ponder the truth of Easter and cause our hearts to be filled with joy and peace. In your name we pray. Amen.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you noticed how easy it is to accumulate weeds in your yard? I remember living back in WI especially in the spring of the year, we would always get an infiltration of weeds. You would want to get rid of them as quickly as possible because they would spread throughout your yard and attach themselves deep in the soil. Sometimes it could be a real struggle as the root would grow at least as deep in the soil as the plant would grow tall. Not only would the root help anchor the plant; it also contained a very effective nutrient delivery system. As the root went deep into the soil, it absorbed the food and moisture it needed to stay healthy. It presented quite a problem.

In the book of Jeremiah (17:7-8), God doesn't refer to us as weeds but rather as planted trees who possess many of the same qualities. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will

be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought. Nor will cease from yielding fruit”.

No doubt, drought will come, and heat will threaten us. That’s part of life in this world. But God has planted us near life-giving waters, and he wants us to sink our roots deep into the soil so that we can tap into them. Deep roots of faith save you in times of distress. God’s word gives us wisdom and understanding.

One of the great themes of Christianity is triumphant hope. Not just hope as in a distant vague dream, but triumphant hope, the kind of hope where all things end right. In the midst of the struggles and the storms and the suffering of life, we can advance our thoughts beyond today and see eternal relief, and victory. Because in the end, God does indeed win as we witnessed once again this past Easter.

All earthly woes, all financial pressures, all emotional trauma, all physical disabilities and handicaps, all those things end. And we will have the joy of living forever and ever in praise and adoration of our God.

Just as the root of the weed or the tree planted beside the waters, what better way to deepen your faith than hearing His word and receiving His Body and Blood regularly in His house. It’s the perfect place to leave your anxiety behind and immerse yourself in all that he has to offer you. Seated there in the presence of the Lord, surrounded by faithful friends, you can’t help but absorb His grace and strength.

There is so much the Lord wants to give you – wisdom, guidance, comfort, forgiveness, courage for your challenges. It’s all there waiting for you. So come to him, root yourself in His word, and absorb his grace.

God’s blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 25

The Church Council has asked me to notify the congregation of two items they we will be bringing forward at the May 25th meeting.

1. The Council is suggesting that since Pastor Schulz is such an active outreach Pastor and has an Evangelism committee working with him, that we eliminate the title of Chairman of Outreach (Article IX, Section 7 of our current BYLAWS) and replace that position on the Council with the Chairman of Music and Worship. Since Ron Brutlag is the current Chairman of Outreach, and Head of Music and Worship, he would continue on the board as Chairman of Music and Worship. This would basically be only a change in title.
2. The Council along with Pastor Schulz, have been discussing eliminating the use of the communion registration booklet. Since Pastor has been entering Church attendance into the Power Church computer program, he has not been making use of the communion registration booklet. He has also checked with a number of other Churches who no longer make use of this system. The elimination of this booklet might assist with relieving some of the congestion near the doors that enter into the Sanctuary. We look forward to further discussion of these issues at our May meeting.

Yours in Christ,
Greg Wendorf
Council President

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

May 2014

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 takes place every Wednesday in May from 12:00-1:30 PM at church.

Wednesday in the Word-Taught by Pastor Schulz

Nothing Happens By Chance- A study of the book of Esther and Ruth

Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 PM May 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th.

Are you wondering how certain things that have happened in your life fit into a much larger plan that God has for you? Do you want to see how God always will be there for you no matter how dark it gets?

Join us for this 6 week study on the lives of Esther and Ruth.

Book Club- Facilitator is Pastor Dale
Will meet again in fall.

SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him)-
Facilitator is Pastor Dale

Brunch at Water Oak on Sunday, May 4th after 11:00 AM. Monday May 12th, 1:00 PM at Church, we will have a regular Bible study and meeting.

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 May 16th at 8:30 AM.

The Defenders- Led by Ken Wells and Bill
Sigurdson

This group meets once a month to shoot 50-100 rounds at the Gun Club off 44 near Leesburg. Ken and Bill supply everyone with targets or you can buy one for \$1.25. The cost to use the range is \$10.00.

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. Next meeting May 22nd at the Gun Club at 11:00 AM. June meeting will be cancelled.

Quilters- Facilitator is Ruth Niermeyer
Meets May 2nd at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

The 466A Group- Will meet again in Fall

The North County Group – Will meet in late
August

Grief Share: Will meet again in Fall

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

FRED AND JUDY HAINEN



Those of us who don't live in the Villages realize the many aspects of our lives that are favorably affected by the Villages. One of the Villages' gifts to all of us

is the addition of Fred and Judy Hainen to our Open Bible family. Fred and Judy have lived in Southern Trace since 2004 and previously performed their musical talents at the Church on The Square. As we all know, both Fred and Judy are especially musically talented and with most who develop special performing arts skills, their pursuit started early in life.

Judy and Fred grew up on the same street in Bowling Green, Ohio, and attended the same grade school, although four years apart. As children, they rode their bikes to Bowling Green University for music lessons, Fred learning violin and Judy piano. Actually, they really didn't become acquainted until Judy become Fred's accompanist at church when Fred was home from college or work on weekends. Obviously, they really liked each other's music as they were married in 1965. They ultimately received degrees in music education, earned Master's degrees and taught for many years.

Judy taught elementary vocal music in Monroe, Michigan for 23 years, and then taught another 13 years as a second grade teacher, retiring from Michigan schools in 2006. Fred taught for Washington Local Schools, Toledo, for 35 years, specializing in violin and string instruments. He retired from the Ohio schools in 1997. Judy has played organ for various churches for over 50 years.

Fred's list of accomplishments includes playing for the Toledo Symphony Orchestra (40 years), the Florida

Lakes Symphony, The Villages Philharmonic, and Ocala Symphony Orchestra.

Fred and Judy have two married daughters who are also musically talented. Melanie Burghraef, who lives with her husband and two children in Rockford, Mi, is employed by Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, as a nurse practitioner. Elizabeth DePeters, who with her husband lives in Philadelphia, is principle harpist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and teaches at Temple University and the Curtis Music Institute. If interested, you may visit her website under Elizabeth Hainen.

When asked what advice Fred and Judy would give to young people, Fred said "practice more". Fred feels he could have gone to an even greater level of musical success if he had taken his music more seriously at an early age. Judy said "find out what you like to do and make a living at it, and be led by God".

Both have a German heritage and were attracted to Open Bible after being members of The Christian Missionary Alliance. They enjoy the smaller congregation and appreciate the fundamental Bible beliefs. They are happiest now when performing their music and being healthy, as Judy has recovered from cancer four times. Fred also greatly enjoys his special hobby of collecting and showing 16mm films. His knowledge about these films, projectors and related material is extensive.

How blessed we are to have Fred and Judy with us to add to our other musical talented members.

By Michael Benrud

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The church council met on April 17th. Here are the highlights from the meeting:

- February income was \$8,738 more than expenses. The mortgage balance as of 3/31/14 was \$421,724.
- A TV along with mounting brackets will be purchased for the conference room.

- A recommendation will be made to the voters at the May 25th congregational meeting that we discontinue use of the communion register.
- A recommendation will be made to the voters at the May 25th congregational meeting that certain changes be made to the organization chart of the congregation. The primary change is to eliminate the council position of Evangelism Chairman and make the Music and Worship Chairman a council position. Associated by-law changes will also be recommended.
- A representative from LACE will be invited to make a presentation to the congregation on 1/11/2015.
- A bible study called the "Truth Project" will be presented this fall.
- The building and grounds committee will do the following:
 1. Remove the clips from the chairs in the church.
 2. Prepare a detailed diagram of the arrangement of the chairs for normal church services.
 3. Prepare a detailed diagram of the arrangement of the chairs for concerts when the chairs face the organ.
- Additional parking spots will be designated as guest parking.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship of the Christian Church

"Receiving from God and responding to God are not only the sum total of each individual Christian's life they are also the heart and soul of the public worship of the Christian Church. Believers desire to express in public what they believe in private, and they long to share with other Christians what they believe as individuals. In public worship God speaks and the people respond. God serves the congregation and the congregation serves God.

The two-fold function of the Christian assembly is apparent throughout the history of God's people. God placed his rainbow in the sky and attached his promise to it. Noah and his family built an altar in grateful response for the protection God gave during the ordeal of the flood and for his promise that he would not send another universal deluge. The people of Israel built a tabernacle in response to God's command, and God filled the place with smoke, a symbol of his presence and promises. The daily sacrifices that God's people brought to the temple showed their confidence in his promise to send a final sacrifice that would supersede the blood of bulls and goats, a sacrifice for sin that Christ would make once and for all. When the first Christians assembled, they not only devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to the breaking of bread, they also joined in fellowship to offer prayers in response to Christ's promises.

St. Paul's inspired instructions to the congregation at Colosse lets us know what the Holy Spirit sees as the function of the Christian assembly. Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16). "When today's church arranges its public worship to include both god's service to the congregation and the congregation's service to God, it expressed the essential functions of the life of each or its members." (Manual for Christian Worship)

The worship committee has these two functions in mind when we plan worship services for our members, prospects, and visitors. We make sure that God's voice is present in the readings, the sermon, the benediction and that his promises come through loud and clear. We also make sure that the people can respond to God in hymns, psalms, liturgy, and prayers. It is our prayer that we always have these two functions present in all our worship services.

At our monthly meetings we make sure that our worship services are liturgical and that the Gospel message is the predominant message and that the worshipers have ample opportunity to give thankful response for God's promises, especially

the promise of forgiveness of our sins and eternal life.

CONCERT SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all who took time to answer the Concert Committee Survey. Forty surveys were returned. If you would still like an opportunity to offer your opinions and suggestions, the committee would still welcome your input. Speak to one of the members of the committee for a Survey form.

The Survey sought opinions about the kind of concerts people like and the kind of music they prefer. People were asked to indicate which of the concerts or performers they liked the most and which day and time is most preferred. A wealth of suggestions was offered by respondents, indicating a strong preference for hymns and church music. Very little negative response was received and even the one or two critical comments were constructive and helpful. One person offered such a thoughtful response that we have included his suggestions in total at the end of our summary. This summary of the Survey will be posted on the church bulletin board. Be sure to check out all the results.

The Survey noted that the Concert Committee Guidelines name three reasons for holding concerts. You can judge for yourself how close you came in guessing what they were. Here are the three reasons as stated in the Guidelines:

1. Event Evangelism - to use music as an outreach to the community.
2. Praise - to rejoice in the Lord's gifts through music and the talents of others.
3. Encouragement - to help strengthen our faith as well as supporting synodical musicians (high schools, colleges and seminary).

Again, thank you for your participation. The information will be very helpful to the committee and, we trust, serve to glorify God through music in future concerts.

Serving on the Concert Committee are: Joan Blaho, Peggy Carrier, Jerry Mucci, Leslie Nelson, Stacy Vance and Pastor Dale. If you would be interested in serving on this committee speak to Pastor Dale.

WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

Elections were held in our April meeting. Elected were Carol Yahn, Vice President and Karen Pearson, Treasurer.

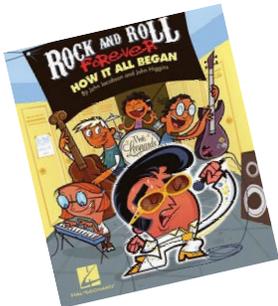
Thank you to all the ladies who helped make our 5th Annual Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show a huge success. 96 ladies attended the luncheon.

Our next monthly meeting is May 14th. Hostesses for the May meeting are Joan Blaho and Carol Yahn. Women of Open Bible do not meet during the summer months of June, July and August.

A luncheon is being planned in June for the ladies. Please watch for the sign up sheet for the luncheon. All ladies are invited.

Sandy Hahm, President

SPRING MUSICAL



The King of King's School children from Maitland will be presenting their spring musical, Rock and Roll Forever, at Steeplechase on Monday, May 12th at 11:00 AM. Let's show our support by marking this date on our

calendars and attending this event. It will be an opportunity for us to reach out to the residents of Steeplechase.

ANYONE FOR GOLF?

Golf the executive courses in The Villages on Fridays with your friends from Open Bible. Please contact Karen Pearson at 352-753-9435 for more information or to sign up.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bob & Marge O'Connell – 1
Marvin & Pat Krahn – 11
Fred & Loreli Aguda – 14
Russ & Ruth Niermeyer – 28

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Doris Schlicht – 2
Bill Gebhard – 5
Barb Jasper – 5
Ron Brutlag – 9
Patricia Major – 12
Adrianna Thise – 19
Tom DeWitz – 21
Mary Helen Schultz – 21
Dave Bliss – 23
Ina Taylor – 24
Beverly Dickson – 25
Stacy Vance – 27