



# Newsletter



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*September 2018*

*Volume 13 No. 9*

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## **From the Pastor** by Pastor Mark Schulz

### **The Ultimate Fortress** **Psalm 62:2**

"He alone is my rock and my salvation;  
He is my Fortress, I will never be  
shaken."

Many people have traveled through Europe to see the great castles and fortresses built centuries ago. The purpose of every fortress is the same; protect the inhabitants from the enemies and preserve the kingdom. In one way or another, every such fortress has failed. The enemy has always found a way to gain entrance or to defeat the inhabitants. King David in this psalm was facing such enemies who would topple his kingdom and destroy his fortress. We might imagine that we can create a fortress in our lives that no one can topple. Such a fortress might be our efforts at financial security, always having enough saved for a rainy day. Or we might try to find security in health and exercise. Look at the health market emphasis on exercise machines and megavitamins that will help to fight off every invasion of weakness as if we can build a fortress of exercise that will preserve life.

Twice in this psalm (verse 2 and 6), David identifies the one fortress in which he will never be shaken. That fortress is God, his rock and his salvation. When Jesus says that He will never leave us or forsake us, that He will be with us always to the close of the age, He is building just such a fortress around us that cannot be destroyed. It is His love that surrounds us day by day.

**O Lord, let your fortress of love be  
my dwelling place forever. Amen.**

## **President's Message**

You have probably noticed by now that the Church Council has authorized some changes in the landscaping near the entrance to our Church. We have removed some of the dead or dying vegetation and replaced it with new and more vibrant plants including rose bushes as well as some decorative stone. These changes have certainly added to the overall appearance of our entry way and parking area in a very positive manner. I think that without a doubt my favorite flower is the rose. There are few things more delicate and beautiful than a single red rose. Besides its simple beauty, much can be learned from a single rosebud. The following short story and poem demonstrate how God can use the rose to teach us some very important facts of life.

A new minister was walking with an older, more seasoned minister in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he asked the older preacher for some advice.

The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older minister and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry. But, because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older minister began to recite the following poem;

*"It is only a tiny rosebud,  
A flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine."*

*"The secret of unfolding flowers  
Is not known to such as I.  
GOD opens this flower so easily,  
But in my hands they die."*

*"If I cannot unfold a rosebud,  
This flower of God's design,  
Then how can I have the wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?"*

*"So I'll trust in God for leading  
Each moment of my day.  
I will look to God for guidance  
In each step of the way."*

*"The path that lies before me,*

*Only my Lord knows,  
I'll trust God to unfold the moments.  
Just as He unfolds the rose."*

What a simple yet beautiful lesson our Savior teaches us. Like the rose, are we not cared for? Yet are we not often anxious about our daily needs? We often worry about being without, yet we live in a world of abundance. Such worry seems to indicate that our faith needs a boost.

Christ teaches us to find comfort in the fact that our heavenly Father knows what we need. He takes care of everything. He also cautions us not to make material things our dearest treasures in life. Much more important is to have our souls clothed in the robes of Christ's righteousness.

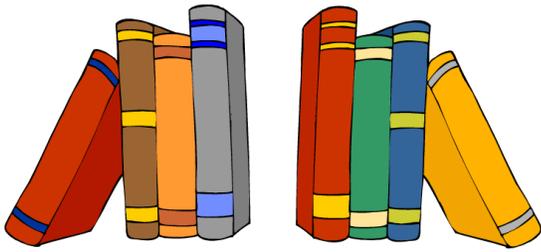
Enjoy the beauty of the roses that are now part of our landscape. But more importantly enjoy the message taught each and every Sunday inside the Church in the Gospel of God's love in Jesus that will cloth us for all eternity.

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

The new library up and running. The checkout procedures are simple. Find a book you are interested in, sign your name, phone number and date on the card, (located on the back of the front cover, the back cover or the 1<sup>st</sup> page), remove it and put it in the box on the shelf labeled "Library Cards." 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.



## LWMS NEWS

### LWMS United to Serve Jesus

I had the privilege of attending the 55th LWMS Convention in Green Bay, Wisconsin this summer. I have never attended a convention and it was exciting. When I broke my hip as I was returning to MI in May I was thinking OH No! Does this mean I won't be able to attend the Convention? But, God helped me heal so I was able to go. It was so inspiring. I was able to connect with Jeanette Kellam, Audrey Hoerchner, and

Carol Yahn. It was fun to share impressions of the daily services, the workshops, the music and the different Mission booths. I hope to attend the one in Des Moines, Iowa next June.

Thank you for your support of our pill bottle project for the Central Africa Medical Mission. You responded so quickly we had over 200 to send out in no time at all. Look for the letters from the CAMM stateside contact person and the administrator at the mission. They will be posted in the sign-up area between the welcome center and the fellowship hall. We are putting a hold on collecting bottles until we are requested to send a shipment. They have storage limitations, but we want to be ready as soon as the need is announced. We have enough at this time for the next shipment. Please do not place large bottles in the donation box. The size needed are the bottles that are about 2.5 to 3 inches tall and about 1 to 1 and a half inch across the top.

Another project we are working on is making pencil cases as Christmas presents for the children in the Branch Lutheran Schools in Haiti. I saw the project at the LWMS conference and brought back a sample and the pattern. I sent Sandy Pawlowski and Jane Valley the information. Sandy has organized a work day to make the pencil cases. It is Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at Open Bible. You don't need to be able to sew or have a sewing machine available. There are several steps that involve cutting, measuring and pressing. Look for more information in the Sunday bulletins or give Sandy a call.

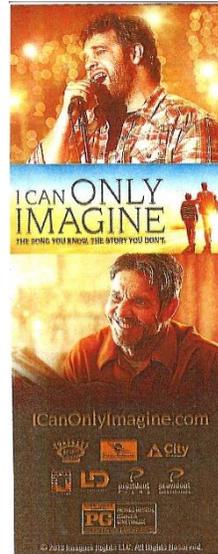
Save the Date Oct.20 Open Bible is hosting the LWMS Fall Rally for the North Florida Circuit. It is open to women (and the men who love them) who are members of the congregation to attend. If you have been wondering about LWMS, what they do or how you could

find a place to serve why not plan to attend. Look for more information elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Until next month, Peggi Carrier  
*LWMS Reporter for Open Bible*



**Mornings with Mommy:** We will be starting our Mornings with Mommy group for children 1 – 5 years old. This will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. There is registration on our website and you can go to our Facebook page and check it out too! This is a chance for Moms and Dads to come and have fun with their children, learn about God and meet other parents. There is storytelling, singing, crafts, and different centers for growth. The group meets from 9:40a.m.- 11a.m. Please tell any families that you know that this is available and is free of charge! Register online today at: [www.openbiblelutheran church.com](http://www.openbiblelutheran church.com) (right side of home page) or Call 352-753-9038. The first group is Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Any questions, contact Jane Valley.



## Golf Cart Movie Night

Join us to view some of the top Christian movies that have recently been shown at local movie theaters. We have the largest outdoor movie screen in The Villages, a super clear sound system, professional HD projection equipment, plush grassy area to view either from your golf cart

or lawn chair. We offer soda and freshly popped hot popcorn in our new fellowship hall which has easy access from the viewing area. On a rainy night, movies will be still shown inside.

*September 25th: "I Can Only Imagine" Tuesday at 7:30 PM*

*October 23rd "War Room" Tuesday at 6:45 PM*

## Small Group Ministry

### Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork

Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski



This group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also, does knitting, crochet, and embroidery. So if you have a craft project you are working on, bring it along and work on it while enjoying fellowship with others.

The meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 9:00 – noon. First meeting September 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen

Journey with Jesus Bible Study will meet Mondays, beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>. 9:15am – 10:30am. The topic: "Sip, Savor and Drink Deeply", by Deb Burma. Here's a little description from the back of the book:

The idea of a coffee break is enticing, isn't it? Even if coffee isn't your beverage of choice, you look forward to down time, especially if it is spent with a friend who wants your company. Jesus is such a friend. The Lord wants our company. He invites us to meet with Him in His Word...Time spent in Bible study will fill you to the brim and beyond with God's Good News. Sip, savor and drink deeply from His Word. Contact Judy Hainen, 750-5320 or [organjudy@juno.com](mailto:organjudy@juno.com), if you are interested.

### WinGS: Women in God's Service



**WINGS**  
WOMEN IN GODS SERVICE

Led by: Jane Valley

Our first meeting of the year will be September 12<sup>th</sup> and we will be talking about the Fall LWMS Rally that will be held at our church October 20, 2018. We will need lots of help to make this a successful event, please look at the sign up sheets. Men are welcome to help and encouraged so our women can hear what is happening in the group. I know the other congregations are looking forward to coming to our church just from the group of board members. Thank you to those who donated the pill bottle pick up, remember they are asking for the small pill bottles. We will be ready when they have a need for them the next time!

**SPLASH:** Single People Loving and Serving Him, Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale. SPLASH will meet on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm at Open Bible.



There will be a Bible Study and social activity planning meeting.

### North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

This Bible Study will be on Sundays, from 6:00 – 8:00pm. The North Country Bible Study Group will resume its study of People's Bible book of Acts on September 16, 2018 6 p.m. at the home of Alan and Pam Johnson. All are welcome, particularly those in the Ocala area!

### Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson

The Ladies Bible study will begin September 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Open Bible.

In this Bible Study you will learn to follow through on our commitments despite your feelings and embrace the grace of refinement rather than the relief of release. "A Woman That Doesn't Quit." Lessons from the book of Ruth by Nicki Koziarz. Please contact Pam Johnson soon so she can order books. Or you can find your own copy on Amazon. ([lambteach@cox.net](mailto:lambteach@cox.net))

**466A Group Bible Study:** The group is led by Pastor Rodger Dale. The group will meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month.

**TOPIC: Heirs Together Of God's Gracious Gift of Life**

This study begins gives healthy emphasis to the often forgotten shared blessings and responsibilities men and women

have in serving Christ. All the lessons are meant to provide opportunities for men and women to discuss what Scripture says about their interdependence and the unique applications of unchanging principles for different ministry settings. The study looks at our unique callings as male and female by defining head, helper and calling, and then applying these relationships in marriage, church and the unbelieving world.

September 11<sup>th</sup>: *Head and Helpers Partners in Marriage*

September 25<sup>th</sup>: *Women's Gifts As We Work Together in God's Church*

**Choir:** Open Bible Choir begins practice



September 19, at 6:15 pm, following Pastor's Bible Study. There is a

special unity when a group of singers practice and minister together. We like to practice four anthems ahead, so we are well prepared. Contact Judy Hainen if you are interested.

**Men of Leisure**—Men's Breakfast Bible



Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler This September meeting will be on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at

8:30am. Meeting will be at the Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466 in The Villages.

**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:**



This group is 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.

**The Defenders**



Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Jim Johnson. The Defenders will meet Thursday, September 27<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.

**Fellowship Group**

Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson, Joe & Paula Malec. Stay tuned for more information on activities for the fall.

**Friday Fore-Giving Golfers**



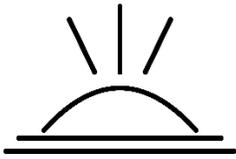
Facilitator is Sandy Fehlhaber This group meets once a week on Friday afternoons to golf the Executive courses in The Villages. Teams are determined by the Sunday prior to the golf date. Each golfer is equipped with a small plastic bag with extra-long tees and a business card from Open Bible to hand out to unchurched golfers. Contact Sandy at [jim.fehlhaber@gmail.com](mailto:jim.fehlhaber@gmail.com)

**Care for the Caregivers:** Pastor Rodger Dale is the facilitator of this group. This is a support group for individuals dealing with being the care-givers of their spouses. Alzheimer's, dementia, handicapped, etc. need a support group for sharing. Meets Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

**Golf Cart Ministry:** If you are interested in driving the golf cart to pick-up people from the surrounding Independent Living Facilities and bring them to Open Bible services.



**Sonshine Committee:** This group serves our members in helping with calls, cards, visits, meals to those that are homebound, sick or in the hospital.



**Altar Guild:** Leader: Mary Burel  
Small group of ladies responsible for maintaining the Altar each week. Preparing the communion bread and wine, arrangement of Altar flowers, etc.

**Grief Share:** 13 week video-based small group to help those who have lost a loved one in death. Thursdays for 1:00—2:30pm. Meets when the need arises.

**BOB Breakfast:** A Saturday morning breakfast at Open Bible followed by a Bible study. The group will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month starting in October at 8:30 A.M. Breakfast and fellowship for 45 minutes, followed by a 45-minute Bible class discussion. The group coordinator is Richard Raine.



**Topic:** October 6<sup>th</sup>: Global Warming: How Concerned (and how green) should we be?

**HANDBELLS:** Handbells meet for rehearsals again in September. We will have an organizational meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4 p.m. All interested in playing handbells please join us. Reading music is not necessary, keeping time and watching for your turn to ring is all that is needed. Our first rehearsal will be on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.



### **Early Bird Bible Study**



**Agents of Grace: The People in David's Life and In Yours**

David was the greatest king of God's Old Testament people, the Israelites. Throughout David's life, God used many people to mold him into the man and leader he came to be. This Bible study looks closely at those people. During this course you will review the life of David, learn about the people whom the Lord brought into his life, see how the Lord used those people as his tools to shape David's spiritual growth, and focus on the people God brings into our lives for the same purposes.

Nine Sessions:

*September 9<sup>th</sup> : Samuel—David's Mentor*

*September 16<sup>th</sup>: Goliath---The Person Who Made David Famous*

*September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Saul----God's Tool of Affliction*

*September 30<sup>th</sup>: Jonathan—David's True Friend in Christ*

### **Sewing For Haiti:** All are welcome to



join Sandy Pawlowski on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 3:30. We will be making Pencil Cases as Christmas presents

for the children in the Branch Lutheran Schools in Haiti. We will also be making pillow case dresses. There is more than sewing involved so, if you can cut, measure and iron (press), we need your help!



### **Wednesday in the Word**

#### **Bible Study:**

#### **End Times: Jesus Is Coming Soon**

This Bible study is a thorough examination of what Scripture teaches about the topic of eschatology, which means "the end times. There is a lot of misunderstanding in our world today about the rapture and millennialism. TV evangelists promote their false teachings that have only been around a little over 100 years. Be able to defend what the Bible actually teaches to those who have been misled.

*September 5<sup>th</sup>: The Unknown Day and Hour of Jesus Return*

*September 12<sup>th</sup>: While We Wait For Jesus' Return*

*September 19<sup>th</sup>: The Events of Judgment Day*

*September 26<sup>th</sup>: The Judgment*

### **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

Jim & Carolyn Duncan - 4  
Pastor Rodger & Connie Dale 9  
Ronald & Lois Klatt - 11  
James & Sandra Fehlhaber - 14  
Mark & Carol Mehlberg -15  
John & Doris Adams - 16  
Ken & Jeanne Nelson - 23  
Russ & Monine Follett - 28



## Happy Birthday

Bill Whitford --- 3  
Del Draeger - 4  
Keith Mackey - 5  
Karen Herring - 8  
Bob O'Connell - 9  
Sharon Tess - 12  
Mike Benrud - 14  
Dan Pearson - 14  
Linda Villemure - 17  
Dennis Knack - 20  
Audrey Hoerchner - 21  
Pat Krahn - 22  
Connie Dale - 23  
Jeanne Nelson -28  
Mike Holmes - 29



**Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Pastor Mark M Schulz**  
**4671 Bellwether Lane**  
**Oxford, FL 34484**  
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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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