



NEWSLETTER



September 2014

Volume 10, No 9

FROM THE PASTOR

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

One of the ways I stay in touch with friends from long ago is via Facebook, a social media tool on the internet. What amazes me when I view pictures of high school classmates I knew at Michigan Lutheran Seminary back in 1974 is how old they now look. I didn't remember them that way. But then I look at myself in a mirror. I observe new wrinkles, graying hair, sometimes a person I hardly recognize. I wonder, "How did I get this old? It seems just like yesterday that I was a child, a teen, a young man."

Today I must admit simply that I am getting older. Not an easy admission because when I was young I remember what I thought of old people. Old people were out of touch, could not do anything fun, mostly sat around getting older. Now I am one of them.

Growing older does not have to be a burden. Though there are some things we simply must accept in an aging body, we need not accept bitterness, grumpiness, or a complaining attitude.

My mother-in-law Ruby loved to do crossword puzzles. She lived with us for 18 years. I enjoyed the look on her face when she would ask me the answer to a Bible crossword question. It was almost as if I could see the little girl still inside her.

I think that is the way to be. We ought to grow wiser, more understanding of the faults of others, and generally kinder in our later years. But I think it is important that somewhere inside we keep alive the child, the sense of wonder, the sense of excitement. Why? Because we have a God who promises to work all things together for our good.

We have a God who loves us, guides us, protects us, and one day escorts us to our eternal home. We have a God who will renew and re-energize us daily. So keep that little child spirit alive!

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to keep the child alive, even as we grow and mature and waste away outwardly, keep us renewed inwardly. Amen.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A few months back I received a rather unique and somewhat humorous e-mail from Les Stauske. Amongst other things, it contained an interesting conversation between a father and his young son. It went like this: A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay", said his father, "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for Basic Information Before Leaving Earth..."

When you stop and think about it the young man was pretty close to being accurate. The Bible is a very unique book. It was written by over 40 men over a period of over 1400 years. God himself breathed into these authors not only the thoughts but the exact words they wrote: "All scripture is God breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible, though written a long time ago, has never lost its relevance and no one has ever improved on its content. Though old, it never fails to offer something pure, something wise, something new. It is the single most popular book in all of history and it has been the best selling book in the world for years.

But the Bible is more than just information about God. Its purpose is to proclaim God's plan and passion to save His children. His son Jesus was our

sinless Lord and Savior who willingly took our place and suffered our punishment when He died on the cross. God declared us forgiven when He raised Jesus from the dead. We are saved through faith in Him, plain and simple. This is what Paul means when he states in Romans 10:8,9 "The word is near you: it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

It is the treasure map that leads to God's highest treasure, eternal life. That is the reason this book has endured through the centuries.

Here are a few more interesting Biblical facts:

- 1) The shortest chapter of the Bible is Psalm 117
- 2) The longest chapter is Psalm 119
- 3) The center of the Bible is Psalm 118

There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 after. The exact center is Psalm 118:8. Does this particular verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His word. Psalm 118:8 "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

Each time you open your Bible, ask the author to open your heart. Let God's word fill your memory, rule your heart, and guide your words. And remember, like a compass, the Bible always points you in the right direction.

God's blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE



Patty Kontak

How many nurse anthropologists do we have in the WELS? There are probably very few and most likely only one. I am continually

amazed at the special abilities and the uniqueness of our WELS members. Patty Kontak, a new member of Open Bible, is one of those special unique people.

Patty was raised in Michigan, having been brought into the WELS upon the formation of the new WELS Synod, previously Missouri. Patty became a registered nurse, receiving her schooling in Michigan. Later, Patty also earned a degree in cultural anthropology from Arizona State. For those of you like myself who don't know much about this branch of anthropology, it involves a study of primitive cultures. Patty had the special opportunity of studying remote tribes as well as becoming the medic for an indigenous mountain population. While this was a unique opportunity to serve others, Patty says her greatest opportunity to serve and witness was a nurse for many years, mostly in the intensive care unit in a hospital.

Patty has one son, Jeffrey, and daughter in law, Dulce, along with Elliot, a new grandson living in New Jersey.

I often hear from retirees that they wish they had done more of what they truly enjoyed when they were able to do so. Patty is probably an exception to that wish in that she kayaks, hikes, rides a motorcycle, gardens, sells some of her nature photography prints and in general is very active. Patty says in her retirement she realizes more than ever that the path God has given her is always the right one.

Patty has lived in Millington, Michigan, Idaho, Tempe, Arizona and the Bronx, New York. Now she has a home six miles east of Inverness (18 miles from Open Bible). She is very pleased with the traditional WELS worship and doctrine at Open Bible, and enjoys being part of our family. Patty, we are most pleased to have you with us.

By Michael Benrud

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Sunday Morning Bible Study (Led by Pastor Schulz) Life of Moses (PowerPoint Study)

**Meeting in the front of church from 8:00-8:45 AM.
beginning on September 7th.**

Take a trip to Egypt. Learn about how Moses resembles us in so many ways. Discover how God always takes care of his people, even in the most trying of situations. See how his people are protected and delivered from every trial they face in life.

8 Sessions – September and October 2014

Wednesday in the Word at 5:00 PM. (Led by Pastor Schulz)

Revelation: Renew Your Vision (PowerPoint Study)

Learn about what we face as Christians as we await the return of Jesus Christ.

Discover what the Battle of Armageddon really is, how false teaching will cause many to fall, and enjoy graphic portrayals of heaven.

8 Sessions – Begins on September 10th.

SPLASH Single People Loving and Serving Him (Led by Pastor Dale)

Great Chapters of the Bible

Meeting twice a month, once for study, and once for recreational activities

A look at very important chapters of the Bible.

First meeting on Monday, September 16th at 1:00 PM

Coordinators: Joan Sanderson, Nancy Rodriguez, and Angela Spengler

North Country Group (Led by Alan Johnson)

Meeting twice a month on Sundays from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

**Meeting at the home of Alan & Pam Johnson-
September 14th and 28th**

Topic: Whole Bible Project: James and Titus

466A Group and Vicinity (Led by Pastor Schulz)

**This group will meet twice a month on Tuesdays
Tuesday September 16th from 2:00-4:00 PM. At the
home of Jim and Eva Orcutt Topic: Study on Philemon**

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP (Led by Dennis Duessler) Men at Leisure

**Meets at Perkins Restaurant at 8:30 AM on Friday,
September 12th**

Travel through Great Chapters of the Bible this fall.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (Led by Judy Anderson)

Prayer: An Audience with a King by Joel Petermann

Looks at prayer from this perspective: Jesus is the King and you are his subject. Every time you pray, you are going before the King. Improve your prayer life by using scriptural guidelines to approach your Redeemer-King.

6 Sessions: Begins on Thursday September 11th at 1:00 PM.

Open Bible Book Club (Pastor Schulz)

Group meets at church on Tuesday September 30th at 4:00 PM.

"Your Questions, Scriptures Answers" By Professor John Brug

Women of Open Bible (Led by Sandy Hahm)

Kick-off meeting Wednesday September 10th at 12:30

**PM. Salad Lunch for the big kick-off! Meets on the
Second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. for
service, spiritual growth, fellowship, and recreation.**

Meets September-May.

Quilters of Open Bible (Led by Ruth Niermeyer)

**Meets on the First Friday of each month at church at
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM – September 5th.**

Group creates quilts for those in need in our community.

Fellowship Group (Led by Joe and Paula Malec)

**Meets once a month for a recreational activity. First
activity will be Friday, September 26th at 6:30 PM.**

A popular card game "Military Whist". Sounds interesting! Prizes too! Bring a snack to pass. All ages and friends welcome.

Adult Choir (Led by Stacy Vance)

Meets on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 PM.

Starting Wednesday, September 17th.

GRIEF CARE (Facilitator - Patricia Major)

8 week video-based small group to help those who have lost a loved one in death.

Tuesday September 30th at 2:00 – 3:30 PM.

Defenders (Led by Ken Wells and Bill Sigurdson)

**Meets on the last Friday of the month at 11:00 AM
August 29th, September 26th**

Women of Riches (Led by Pam Riches)

**Meets on Mondays at 2:00 PM starting Sept. 15th
for 6 weeks at the home of Pam Riches.**

The study will be "That the World May Know-Promised Land" – 5 Faith Lessons.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Beginning on September 7th, 2014 Children's church will be offered on a regular Sunday basis.

Fliers have been made and will be distributed throughout the community in the coming weeks.

With the anticipation of new children arriving for Children's church it is hoped that many of you will consider joining the Children's Ministry Team. The requirements are a love of Children and a love of His Word. We welcome any and all to give it a try.

Please prayerfully consider this meaningful service to Christ's Kids.

Call Pam Johnson or Pastor Schulz to volunteer your time and talent; or if you have questions.

Sharing His Love,
Pam Johnson (352-390-6982)

SPLASH PRESS RELEASE

SPLASH has great plans for the coming activity year. Bible Study options and many fellowship opportunities including Sunday brunches, Valentine's Dinner out, *The Music Man* production at the Mellon Patch Theater in Leesburg, a night at the Orange Blossom Opera in Wiersdale, and two day trips, one to Lakeridge Winery for the Christmas event they call "Wine and Chocolate", and the other a Horse Show. Service projects include serving a Lenten Supper, serving for a Concert and more. The first event is Brunch at Perkins, Sunday, September 14th. The plan for the year will be discussed and finalized at that time.

SPLASH is a special group for singles at Open Bible. Newcomers and friends are always welcome.

MUSIC & WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Compelling Worship – The WELS Triennial International Music and Worship Conference 2014

Let me start by offering a humble but heartfelt thank you to the congregation for allowing me and our organist Judy Hainen to attend this gathering of musicians, teachers, pastors and lay people from all over our synod. The words I share here with you in this article cannot begin to express the level of glory that we experienced twice a day inside the chapel on the Carthege College campus in Kenosha, Wisconsin during morning and evening worship services. Not to mention the workshops and fellowship that engaged us in learning about various topics from new music for church services to choir rehearsal techniques. There were artists and vendors on hand to offer their wares and expertise. I even spoke to the lead singer of our synod's resident contemporary rock band *extraordinaire Koine'*, Brian Davidson.

On behalf of the Music and Worship Committee I was given a very specific assignment while at this conference. 1. Obtain new music for the choir. Well, honestly, that was a no-brainer. 2. Learn about the current hymnal and how other churches are using alternative settings for parts of the liturgy like the psalms and how it is presented to the congregations and how they present it in the bulletins, etc. This took place at every service mentioned previously. Every worship service was like a concert within a service. There was 15 minutes of pre-service music which was noted in the bulletin and you were expected to sit in silence because it was considered a part of the service. There were close to 1000 attendees at this year's conference which included a children's choir, a high school honor choir, a number of orchestras, and many fine organists. Yet, when the choir finished singing "Abide with Me" unaccompanied at the first night's service just before the closing prayer, you could have heard a pin drop. Of course, I had tears streaming down my face and chills running up and down my spine. The entire week was filled with variations and possibilities that truly had my mind spinning on how I might

bring bits and pieces back to our little part of the world to help enhance your worship experience. I'm not saying things here at Open Bible are going to be like the Crystal Cathedral or need to be on such a grandiose scale but I know that our choir can do some of the things I heard and we can implement or try some of the things I saw in print with very little cost or upheaval to everyone's comfort level to help make our worship *more compelling*.

I couldn't help but post on Facebook after one night's service because I was so moved by what I had heard. I realize that what we can expect to hear in heaven will be unhampered by human flaws and imperfections but for that brief moment perhaps God was allowing us a sound bite of what we might get to hear when we get there, in His glory. As I sat there, with the orchestra playing and the chorus singing and the huge pipe organ playing to a crescendo all at the hands of the conductor so well timed and written, the music washed over me like a wave and all I could do was close my eyes and let it come as I thought what a glorious and marvelous thing this is! Music, that God created for us mere mortals to find such joy in, that we should use it to return his praise back to him. I wonder if God gets goose bumps.

SCIENCE VERSES BIBLE

Science vs Bible Corner By Dr. Kevin Peil (WELS member from Bay City, MI)

We will feature articles over the next several months from a WELS Lutheran scientist who works at Dow Chemical in Michigan. Dr. Peil has spoken to large groups across the country.

Question: Was there really an ice age at one time?

Yes. The effects of the ice age are still with us: the polar ice caps and glaciers. Because these effects are evident today, the ice age must have occurred shortly after the end of the flood. Beginning several hundred years after the flood and lasting for approximately 500 years, a great continental ice sheet centered over North America reaching as far south as the great plains. A similar ice sheet

covered Europe sweeping as far south as France and Italy. As the earth's atmosphere stabilized after the flood, large quantities of atmospheric water was transported to the polar regions where it would have fallen as snow. The accumulating snow would have formed a giant ice pack radiating out from its center. Did Job live during the ice age? Job 37:10 "The breath of God produces ice and the broad waters (oceans?) become frozen," Job 38:29-30 "From whose womb comes the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens when the waters become hard as stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen?"

WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

Women of Open Bible will start our meeting this fall with a kick off "salad lunch" on Wednesday, Sept. 10th at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies of Open Bible are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity to get better acquainted with your sisters in Christ.



The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Fall Rally will be held on Saturday, October 11th at Good Shepherd in Jacksonville.

The theme is "If You Cannot Be a Watchman..." Our speaker will be Linda Liesener, CAMM Chairwoman. The North Florida Circuit has previously supported CAMM (Central African Medical Mission) as a World Mission Project. Join us and hear more about this important work. Watch for a sign up sheet in the back of church. Registration deadline is September 28th.

If you have any questions about Women of Open Bible please call Sandy Hahm at 352-425-5900.

Sandy Hahm, President

2015 LWMS SPRING RETREAT

Does a weekend retreat with other North Florida LWMS members sound like fun? If so, plan on saving the dates of March 13th – 15th, 2015 to attend our first-ever retreat hosted by Faith, Tallahassee.

Rooms will be reserved at a hotel near the church and a schedule of activities is being planned. We'll begin Friday night with a mixer to get acquainted. Saturday morning will be the business meeting. Saturday afternoon will be breakout sessions on various subjects. Pastor and Mrs. Jonathan Kehl from Crown of Life, New Orleans, will speak after the morning meeting and during the afternoon breakout sessions. Later Saturday, we'll visit the State Capitol and Maclay Gardens, with a possible picnic supper at the Gardens. Please join us for a great weekend of fellowship!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Del Draeger – 4
Sandy Hahm – 4
Keith Mackey – 5
Karen Herring – 8
Bob O'Connell – 9
Mike Benrud – 14
Dan Pearson – 14
Dennis Knack – 20
Audrey Hoerchner – 21
Pat Krahn – 22
Connie Dale – 23
Jeanne Nelson – 28
Jerry Taylor – 30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Pastor Rodger & Connie Dale – 9
Ronald & Lois Klatt – 11
Richard & Sally Langer – 12
James & Sandra Fehlhaber – 14
Ken & Jeanne Nelson – 23
Russ & Monine Follett – 28