



Newsletter



April 2020

Volume 15 No. 4

From the Pastor **by Pastor Mark Schulz**

"Hide Yourself for a Little While" ***Isaiah 26:20***

Recently, Jan Britton, a member of Open Bible was reading her Bible, and told me to check out Isaiah 26:20 and tell me what I thought of those words and their application to the Corona virus. Here are the words: "Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by." Don't these words seem to speak about social distancing, and bunkering down in your homes, until the Corona virus has passed?

Actually, I think these words are very applicable to the Corona virus. As we draw closer to the second coming of Christ, the Bible reminds us that there will be natural disasters, pestilences, wars and rumors of war. Right now, throughout the world we are experiencing a pestilence. The Corona virus rates as a pestilence. A pestilence is "a fatal epidemic disease". True, the Corona virus does spare people, but as we have seen, a goodly number of people do die. Further, the virus has crippled our economy.

Our God is a patient God, wanting all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. But eventually judgment on wickedness and unbelief comes. Look at the United States over the past 50 years, and how we have offended our God. We have gone from a Christian nation, to a nation with all sorts

of world religions, that teach a salvation plan diametrically opposed to being saved by faith alone in Christ. We have young families caught up in work, entertainment, and sporting activities for their children. They see no real need to worship the Savior. We murder the unborn, even to the point of birth. We put our stamp of approval on marriages that no longer involve a man and a woman. We have invented more than 2 genders, and we feel that everything came into being via evolution. God eventually says, "Enough is enough."

Judgment on unbelief and wickedness comes. The Corona Virus is one of those judgments. Yes, the virus has occurred because we live in a broken sinful world, where disease and death, will naturally occur. But this virus is worldwide. A statement is being made by our God. God wants people to reassess their relationship with him. It is time to repent and turn back to Him. The United States has become a materialistic society, where most live only for themselves.

As Christians there is encouragement for us in these words of Isaiah. "For a little while until his wrath has passed by." The judgments of God are carried out with the people of God in mind. The days of distress and turmoil are never endless. God has set a limit for the sake of his people and for the sake of the Gospel. While we endure difficulties, a short time may seem a long time to us. But how often doesn't God tell his people to wait patiently until he has determined the deliverance and relief to come. In God's good time, deliverance will come for God's people. Hang in there Christian. God's got this....

" When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." (Isaiah 43:2)

President's Message

As we travel through another Lenten season it should once again become apparent to each of us just how great our Savior's love for us really is. We can't thank God enough just for creating us and giving us this amazing world in which we live. We can never thank him enough just for the fact that we exist, that we live, that we have a mind and the ability to reason that allows us to search for Him in all things. It all may seem a bit perplexing in the light of recent happenings with the Coronavirus, but we should never lose sight of all the blessings that he has so graciously bestowed upon us. No amount of praise and gratitude is sufficient enough to thank Him for this; that He has not left us completely alone, loaded down as we were with sin, but instead took that sin upon himself, and gave us new life.

He willingly sent his only begotten son so that, by His birth and suffering for us in the flesh that He put on, we might know how much God values us. We also realize the depth of Christ's love for us as he stretched one hand to the right, the other to the left and was nailed to the cross where He suffered and died loving us.

Jesus came, took on human flesh and joined us on our journey through the darkness of death. He lived for us, died for us and then rose from the grave so that new life could once again be the

experience of men and women of every generation. This life He offers is not only a hope-filled promise for today, but one that lasts forever. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

That's what this Easter season is truly about. It's not only about the newness of life beyond the annual happenings of spring that refreshes us with the beauty of God's creation. It's about being restored from death to new life itself. It's about the eternal life in Christ that is available to us. May we always remember to thank God each and every day for all He has done for us and continues to do.

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

Council Activities

The Church Council met on March 19th, 2020.

Items discussed included:

A. Communication needed to go to all members of the following:

1. We will be canceling Services at our Church until further notice.
2. Members can continue their offerings during the Coronavirus confinement. Pastor's Update will identify available ways.
3. That we will provide Church Services thru our Web Site, Facebook and Radio broadcasts to members and surrounding Independent, Assisted Living and Skilled facilities.
4. That effective April 1st all holders of keys that open the

Church need to know the new security password.

B. Approval for up to \$3,000.00 in furniture (files, desks, drapes) to relocate the Counters to the Conference Room. This will provide office for Half-Time Called Staff Minister of Music and Education in the Welcome Center.

C. The need continues to find volunteers to learn and operate the Hymn Soft and Media Shout Programs.

Yours in Christ:
Les Stauske
Secretary

Randy Cochran Accepts Call to Open Bible

I have received the call to serve part-time as Minister of Music and Education at your church.

As Mr. Wendorf mentioned in his cover letter, the good Lord has played a very important role in seeing this moment come to fruition.

Because of the unique circumstances, in that Kim and I have already had time to prayerfully consider this Ministry opportunity at Open Bible, it is with great humbleness and joy to inform you that I will be accepting the call to serve at Open Bible beginning this summer.

Kim and I feel that the Lord has put this opportunity in front of us at just the right time in our lives. And that should come at no surprise. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

We have recently closed on a house at Lakeside Landings in Oxford. Technically, we can't be referred to as "The Village People", but it's probably as close as you can get.

Again, thank you for your confidence in me to share Jesus with you and the Open Bible community. Kim and I look forward to becoming members of Open Bible!

Serving Him,
Randy and Kim Cochran

Online Video Worship Services Made Available

Since the introduction of the Covid-19 (corona virus), Open Bible is doing something a bit different. We are filming various clips from our worship service each week but giving you a more personal connection with the speakers and singers. Instead of seeing the whole church sanctuary from a distance, you are getting close-up views.

Each week there will be a call to worship, confession of sins and absolution, a reading from the Bible, hymns, a Sermon, prayers, the Lord's prayer, a blessing and a closing hymn. There are a few different ways to view the video:

Each week Pastor Schulz will email you a link to view the service. You can also go to our website "OpenBibleLutheranChurch.com" And if you click on the middle blue box labeled *Church Service* it will take you to the current worship service.

Also, at the top of our home page, you can click the Sermon tab. On that web page, you can click either the Printed sermons, Audio sermons, or Video sermons tab.

If you'd like to have a bulletin, there is a tab located on the home page, on the right-hand side toward the bottom, called "Sunday Bulletin." You can print out a bulletin there from your printer.

Finally, if you use Face Book you can go to our Face Book page "Open Bible Lutheran Church" and there will be videos of the worship services and sermons.

Thank you all for following as we journey this earth together. Apart, but together in Christ.

Small Group Ministry

It looks like all of our small group activities have been suspended until further notice. Here is a list of our small groups:

Wednesday in the Word:

Led by Pastor Mark Schulz – a Bible Study on different topics.

466A Group Bible Study

Led by Pastor Rodger Dale
This is a group especially for those who live around the area of 466A. It is held in homes of participants the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2:00pm.

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson.



Rehearsal is on
Sundays
at 11:00 am.

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork

Led by: Sandy Pawlowski



Meets on the third
Friday of the month
from 9:00 am – Noon.
This group creates

quilts for those in need in our community. Also, many will bring their knitting, crochet, and embroidery to work on. So, if you have any craft project you are working on, please come and enjoy the fellowship.

WinGS:

Women in God's Service



WINGS
WOMEN IN GODS SERVICE

Led by: Genie Selvey
WinGS will have their
next monthly meeting on
the second Wednesday of
the month.

SPLASH: *Single People Loving and Serving Him*

Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale



is an organization for singles. We have a Bible Study and brief meeting the second Monday each month.

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson
Meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays at
6:00 pm at Alan & Pam Johnson's
home in Ocala. All are welcome to
join, contact Alan Johnson if
interested.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson
The Tuesday Ladies Bible Study will
be **Twelve Extraordinary Women** by
John MacArthur. This study is full of
fascinating information about these
women and the unmistakable work of
God's redemption plan in history through
their lives. As we meet these women in
Scripture and get to know more about
their lives and character, they will
motivate you, encourage you and inspire
you with love for the God they trusted

and served. We meet Tuesdays at 2 p.m. at Open Bible. Please contact Pam Johnson (352-208-1271.)

Men of Leisure:

Led by: Dennis Duessler



Meeting on the second Friday of the month at 8:30 am at Bob Evans on CR466. Topic: Minutes with the Messiah

Friday Fore-Giving Golfers

Facilitator is Sandy Fehlhaber



This group meets once a week on Fridays 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.

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 Doug Tharp. Please contact him if you are interested in joining.

Fantastic Friday Game Day!

Every Friday from 1:00 – 4:00pm for fellowship and fun playing sheepshead, uchre, hand & foot, rumicube or bring a game to share and friends to play with. Facilitators: Carol Yahn, Sandy Pawlowski.

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 Worship services. Contact Joe Malec.

Choir: Music Director is Judy Hainen.



Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm. (following the Wednesday Lenten service) During Judy's absence, Stacy Vance will help with directing the choir and Mareolin Kuske will assist on the piano.

Caring for Caregivers

Is caring for Caregivers for you or someone you know?

Most people focus on the person receiving care. Their prayers are for the person who is ill, injured, etc., but it is often the caregiver who has the greater burden. Caregivers need prayers and support too.

Caring for Caregivers is a support group at Open Bible. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm.

Do you know a caregiver who could benefit from this sharing, learning experience? All past, present and potential caregivers are welcome. Invite other caregivers to be your guest. *Pastor Dale, facilitator.*

New Life in Christ

New Life in Christ Bible Study, Led By Pastor Schulz: This class will be offered when needed.

This is a class for people interested in becoming a member and a good refresher course for members. It is a wonderful review of the basic teachings of Scripture.

Altar Guild: Leader: Mary Burel. If there is anyone interested in finding out more about the Altar Guild, Please contact Mary Burel.

Early Bird Bible Study:

Led by Pastor Mark Schulz
Sundays from 8:00 – 8:50 am.



“The Book of Hebrews”

Knowing Christ brings joy. Knowing Christ in a sinful world may bring pain. Will joy triumph over pain of persecution, or will persecution rob the Christian of faith and joy? This is the choice many early Christians had to face. For Christians today, the temptations may be different. The letter to the Hebrews presents the beauty of Christ and gives us strength not to forsake Jesus.

Mornings with Mommy



They will meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, at 9:30 am. Jane Valley is the director and if you are interested in helping her, please give her a call at 989-450-1937. We are expecting 8 – 10 children. Please contact Jane Valley if you have a child (up to age 5) that would like to attend.

WinGS: (activity) A group of ladies from Open Bible WinGS went the Appleton Museum on Tuesday, February 25th. Here are a few pictures from that trip.



Church Key Holders

Reminder: If anyone has a key to the church, please let the church secretary, Karen Pearson know that you have one. Thank you for your cooperation.

Did You Know?



Can Collection: Bring your “crushed” & “rinsed” cans to church on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month. Put your cans in the back of the car parked out in front of church. Thank you from the Women of Open Bible (WinGS.)

Food Pantry Collection: Please bring non-perishable food items on the 1st Sunday of the month. A collection bin is located by the front doors. Gordon & Shirley Roback will take the items to the donation site for the Wildwood Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

The 2020 Flower Calendar has been placed 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.

Emergency Contact Information

Open Bible can add an emergency contact person’s information to your file. Please indicate the person’s Name,

Relationship to you, their phone number and the state/country that they live in.

Please give this to our church secretary, Karen Pearson and she will add it to your file. You never know when this will come in handy.



Happy Birthday

Gene McConkey – 4
Norma Phillips – 5
Jim Petrie – 6
Mark Mehlberg – 6
Jerry Brooks – 10
Walt Farnsworth – 10
Barb Matthias – 11
Amy Hand – 13
Ralph Omness - 19
Marion Petrie – 22
Bill Stocks – 22
Mike Butzow – 23
Joe Patti - 24
Pastor Rodger Dale – 29

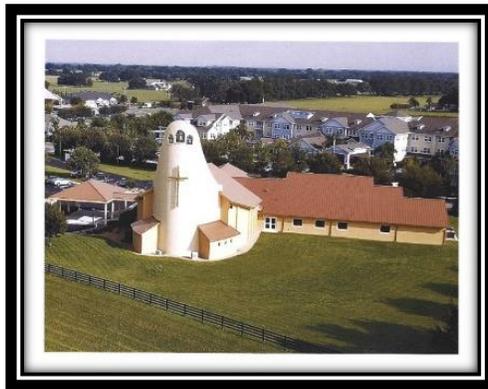


Happy Anniversary

Arline & John Kiewra – 5
Mike & Pat Holmes – 8
Steve & Nancy Kuepker - 15
Jim & Marion Petrie – 16
Ron & Joanne Stuedemann – 27

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“Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known”
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com



Listen to our Radio Ministry on Sunday's at 103.5FM
“The Shepherd.” Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am



Scan this image with your iPhone or
I-Pad and go immediately to our web site.