



Newsletter



August 2019

Volume 14 No. 8

From the Pastor "The Miracle of Open Bible" by Pastor Mark Schulz

One of our members was confused by the financial information given in our bulletin and pastor update. So, I would like to explain the matter as best as I can.

Before Open Bible church was built, 10 acres of land were purchased at a cost of \$750,000. The money to buy the land was secured from the Church Extension Fund, and some of the original members of Open Bible. The Church Extension Fund provided \$400,000, Open Bible contributed \$15,000 from its building fund, and the balance came from a couple of private member donors. Sometime later, several outside buyers were interested in purchasing 5 of our 10 acres. The 5 acres were sold to Steeplechase for \$1,750,000. Of this amount, \$750,000 with some interest was repaid to the Church Extension Fund and the private member donors. At that point, Open Bible had \$1,000,000 in cash, and owned a 5-acre parcel. The congregation proceeded to build a 1.6 million dollar church. Some members paid for different special items like the windows. A mortgage was taken out for approx. \$600,000. That mortgage is still being paid off at approx. \$2,600 a month and now stands at \$295,000.

In 2017, Open Bible began an addition to our present structure as well as making improvements on our property. The capital fund drive was for 3 years, ending in December 2019. Some of our members decided to spread

their gifts to the building fund over 3 years, rather than to give one lump sum gift. We have received \$907,279.35 in gifts from the congregation. We have spent \$893,896 for the building expansion and improvements. This figure includes paying for the landscaping you see outside the church (stones, rose bushes), recoating and striping the parking lot, repainting the outside of the church, building the memorial garden, supplying benches, re-sodding the land that was ripped out, putting in eavestroughs and gutters on the fellowship hall.

On the inside, we replaced an air conditioning unit, fixed the leak and ceiling above the altar, purchased new computers for the offices, office furniture for our 3 newly remodeled offices, furniture for our welcome center, a new camera in the church, wall television sets for the classrooms, a commercial refrigerator, a refrigerator for the flower room, shelves in closets and in storage rooms, and a sound and projection system in the fellowship hall. In addition, sound panels were installed in the fellowship hall. Plus, smaller tables, chairs, and carts to haul tables and chairs were purchased. (I may have forgotten something, but you get the idea)

Presently, we have \$13,383.36 left in the building fund. When we repaint the area at the front altar, \$7,000 will be taken from the building fund to pay for it. So, our expansion and improvements are completely paid for so far. We will expect some more gifts to the building fund before the capital fund drive ends in

December 2019. The figure in the bulletin shows that if everyone honors their commitments, another \$18,000 could be given. But sometimes, because of circumstances (moving, death, financial condition) those commitments are not met.

The Memorial Fund at Open Bible presently has \$84,673 in it. Plans are to use a good portion of these funds for the new EHV Bibles (carried by NWPB), a projection system in church, and a digital sign along the fence line on Woodridge Avenue. The projection system would be used for the contemporary service and for the WELS connection in our liturgical service beginning this winter.

We currently have \$129,000 in the checkbook and low interest-bearing demand Lacey certificate. We most likely will be running a deficit for the next several months, so that amount will be reduced. It is our hope to use some of that checkbook surplus to begin paying down our original mortgage more rapidly. (\$295,000). Pastor Dale is fully retiring next spring and if the original mortgage is alleviated, it would free up an extra \$2600 a month for a second called worker.

We are in the process of recruiting members to a long range planning committee this fall who will meet 2-3 times to give us guidance in the direction God wants Open Bible to take in the next 3-5 years. This congregation has been extremely blessed by God. I remain amazed at how God continues to direct us as we actively reach the Villages community, and the independent living homes around us. Go Open Bible!

President's Message

While on a recent vacation trip back to the place I used to call home, my grandson's father in law passed from life

to death. It was a very difficult time for the entire family and there were a lot of questions left sadly unanswered. We too, here at Open Bible have recently had to deal with the loss of a couple of our own members and I'm sure some of the same questions lingered in the minds of those left behind.

In pondering these events, my thoughts took me back to a short story I had read some time ago that dealt with what comes after death. I know that some of you have seen this already but please let me share it with you once again, as well as those who are seeing it for the first time.

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side. Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle to the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog?"

He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

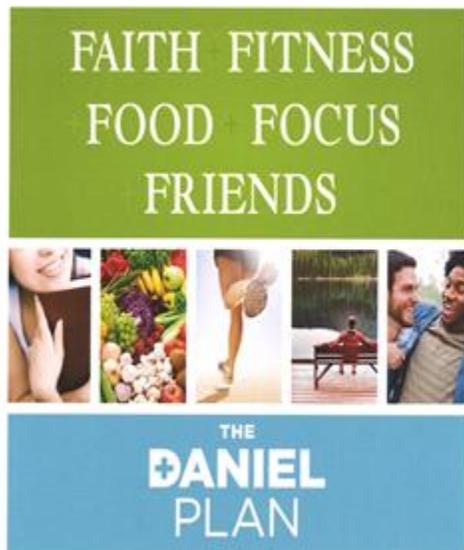
"I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."

But is that truly enough for us? I believe we desire even more information. What will heaven be like? From what Scripture tells us, heaven is a place of perfect joy

and happiness. We will be confirmed in holiness, freed from the corruption of sin so we may serve our Lord forever in righteousness. We shall have the same bodies, but they will be glorified, patterned after the glorious resurrection body of Jesus. This should leave us with a confident hope for eternal life that after we leave this earth we shall dwell with all fellow believers in the presence of God's glory. He truly is the Master.

May today may there be peace within you as you trust God your Master with the true faith that you too will one day be with Him in everlasting glory!

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf



The Daniel Plan 40 Days to a Healthier Life

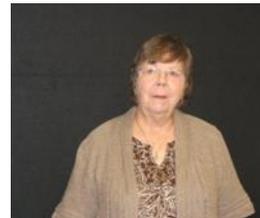
Meets Wednesdays through August for "Maintenance" and then beginning in September: A six-session video based small group study will be centered on five essentials that will launch your journey to health: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. God designed your

body to be healthy and he provided everything you need to thrive and live an abundant life. The Daniel Plan small group study teaches simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your daily lifestyle. As Pastor of Open Bible Lutheran Church, I need to lose about 40 pounds to get my body back where it should be as the temple of the Holy Spirit. I have tried Weightwatchers, Atkins, and other plans, but all have eventually failed. Why I am leading this study? My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I need a lifestyle plan for health that incorporates God's Word. Anyone is welcome to join us for these studies, whether you are overweight or not.

Wednesday Nights: 7:00 P.M. for 7 weeks, beginning in September!

"Serving the Savior" This Month

We would like to acknowledge Jeri



Leeper for "Serving the Savior" for the month of August. Jeri is a caring person and she loves to serve her Savior as the "Welcome Center"

greeter. She arrives at church early and will wipe down the benches in front of the church entrance, so they will be nice and clean for visitors.

When visitors come to Open Bible Church, they are greeted with a friendly face. Guests are asked to sign the "guest book." Afterwards, Jeri will send out a "thank you" note to the guests for visiting.

Thank you, Jeri, for your years of dedication!

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.

Who's Who at Open Bible!



Have you met Peter & Diane Olsen? They are a fun couple! Peter was born and raised in South St. Paul, MN. In fact, he was baptized, confirmed and married at Grace Lutheran Church in So. St. Paul, MN.

Diane was born and raised in Wisconsin. Diane was confirmed WELS in 1990 and married Peter the next year.

Both Pete and Diane worked for the FAA and that's where they met! Diane was an Air Traffic Controller and worked in various locations, like Wisconsin, Illinois and Texas. She retired April 2018.

Peter worked for the FAA and then went to work for Lockheed Martin and then returned to the FAA where he retired June 2018.

Pete & Diane have lived in The Villages for 1 year and have three daughters, Hayley, Rachel & Melanie. Diane's mother and father have lived in The Villages for 18 years and Diane always knew they would spend their retirement here! Pete loves to eat steak and Pizza, and Diane loves to eat steak & seafood. They both love to golf and enjoy

playing three to four times a week!

In their spare time, Peter has driven the golf cart for Open Bible to pick-up our members and visitors at Buffalo Crossing and Carriage House and The Willows. Diane is a member of the Altar Guild and has helped with the Mornings with Mommy. Peter and Diane have also been serving in the kitchen for our Sunday Fellowship. They have been greeters at the front door and Peter has served as usher. We are very blessed to have both of them here at Open Bible Church.

Submitted by Karen Pearson

Small Group Ministry

The following groups will meet in the fall:

466A Group Bible Study

Led by Pastor Rodger Dale

Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson

Saturday Duffers Golfing

Coordinator: Joe Malec

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork

Led by: Sandy Pawlowski

The Defenders

Led by: Bill Sigurdson

WinGS: Women in God's Service

Led by: Genie Selvey (New President)

SPLASH: Single People Loving and Serving Him

Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale

BOB Breakfast: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

The group coordinator is Richard Raine.

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

Begins again Sunday, September 8th at 6:00 pm at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala.

Continuing with Battles of the Bible.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson

Begins Tuesday, September 10th at 2:00 pm at Open Bible. Topic: Come to the Soul Spa!

Fellowship Group

Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson, Joe & Paula Malec.

Men of Leisure:

Led by: Dennis Duessler

Choir: Music Director is Judy Hainen.

The Following groups continue during the summer:

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.

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.

Grief Share: 13 week video-based small group to help those who have lost a loved one in death. Meets when the need arises.

Dog Sweaters at Open Bible?

If you have a dog, puppy, or cat and would like a really cute "free" sweater for this winter, we have them! (Yes, it gets cold in Florida...) If fact they come in a variety of sizes. Thanks to BJ Collins who donated the new handmade sweaters. They are from her pet club in Water Oaks. They are located on the small table in the fellowship hall! Take a look!



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. Jim & Eva Orcutt will take the items to the donation site for the Wildwood Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

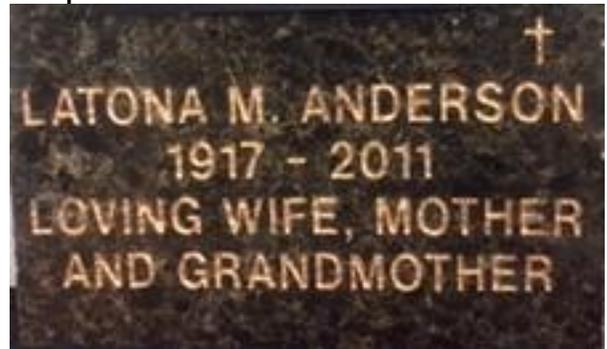
The 2019 Flower Calendar has been placed on the bulletin board near the water fountain. The cost is \$35.00 per arrangement or \$70.00 for both. Please indicate on your envelope payment is for “flowers”. Two families may sign up for a Sunday and share the cost. If you have questions, please call Carol Stauske at 352-292-3079.

Annual Snowbird Picnic

Carol Yahn will be hosting the Annual Snowbird Picnic on Friday, August 16, 2019 in Milwaukee, WI. Beginning at 11:00 am they will have an informal gathering and a Potluck at noon. Then on to Fellowship and Games ending with a Fish Fry at a local restaurant at 5:00 pm. See attached Flyer on page 8 for address, directions and please RSVP!

Memory Garden Progress:

Sample Granite Stones 9.5” x 6”



If you are interested in purchasing a granite stone for the memory garden, please contact Karen Pearson, Church Secretary for a form or one is located by the Sanctuary doors. The cost will be \$50.00 per granite stone. All stones will be black granite with gold lettering and a small cross in the upper right corner.



All Member Visits

Pastor Schulz is conducting an “Every Member” visit during the month of August. Pastor would like to visit with you for about ½ hour. Just a brief conversation to see how you are and

answer any questions you may have. Karen Pearson (church secretary) will be calling to schedule these visits. Most visits will be scheduled for ½ hour (at the most) on Thursdays from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. If you have any questions, please call the church office 352-753-9038.



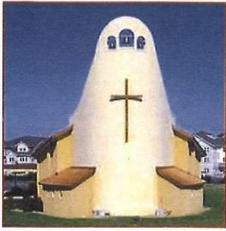
Happy Anniversary

Alan & Liz Koch – 2
Ralph & Pat Omness – 3
Matthew & Amy Hand - 4
Roger & Robin Otto – 14
Bill & Sharon Sigurdson – 17
Keith & Renda Mackey – 21
Patrick & Vanita McCurnin – 23
Ken & Jeanne Nelson - 23
Earl & Doris Schlicht – 25
Michael & Donna Davis – 28
Art & Patricia McCartin – 30
Charles & Lorraine Christensen - 30

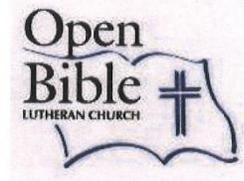


Happy Birthday

Joe Price – 1
Ken Nelson - 1
Nikki Mitra – 2
Jim Orcutt – 2
Roger Acklam – 3
Ron Schultz – 3
Jim Musiel – 5
Carol Yahn – 9
Doreen Schaefer – 10
Peggi Carrier – 11
Gail Rathgeber – 11
Marvin Krahn – 14
Alan Johnson – 14
Vanita McCurnin – 14
Gordon Roback – 16
Ron Dahm – 21
Russ Follett – 25
Pak Knack – 25
Sandy Pawlowski – 25
Linda Draeger – 26



ANNUAL SNOWBIRDS PICNIC Friday, August 16, 2019



Carol Yahn
3313 S. 87th Court
Milwaukee, WI 53227
jercaryahn@gmail.com
RSVP: (414) 241-1450



11am: Informal Gathering
Noon: Pot Luck Lunch

Fellowship and Games

Dinner: Fish Fry at local restaurant
about 5 pm.



- 1) Off of I-894 Beloit Rd exit #3, go East to very next intersection (Morgan Ave)
- 2) Slight right turn onto East Morgan Ave, and go 0.7 mi (to top of hill)
- 3) Turn left onto 88th St (two blocks later becomes Ohio Ave)
- 4) Go 3 blocks to 87th Court
- 5) Turn right onto 87th Court
- 6) 2nd house on the right with flag pole.

Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Mark M Schulz

4671 Bellwether Lane

Oxford, FL 34484

352-753-9038, 989-525-5514

Pastor Rodger Dale: 352-9001-1162

“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 103.5 "The Shepherd." Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am



Scan this image with your iPhone or iPad and go immediately to our web site.