

## LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 5:30 PM**  
“The King’s Feast”

**Good Friday – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 PM**  
“The King Forsaken”



**Easter Worship – April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
“The King Raised”

**Sunrise Service 7:00 AM**  
Easter Sunrise with Communion.

**Easter Breakfast 8:00 AM**

**Easter Festival Worship 9:30 AM**  
There will be no communion in the 9:30 AM service.

## FROM THE PASTOR

“Don't be alarmed,” the angel said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” Mark 16:6-7

### Specifically For You

How did Peter feel on Good Friday? Just watching Jesus go through all his suffering must have been bad enough, but to know that he had denied knowing Jesus had to make him feel awful. Even worse, he had denied Jesus three times. More than that, Jesus had warned him plainly in advance that he was going to do it! How did Peter feel? So horrible that he wept bitterly.

Then on Easter Sunday, the women who arrived at Jesus’ empty tomb are given a clear instruction by the angel. “Go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘Jesus is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” Tell Peter. Tell Peter specifically. Why? Because Peter really needed to hear it! Peter really needed to hear that his sins were forgiven, that he had a risen Savior who still loved him and who always would love him.

You and I are no different than Peter. We're sinful human beings, just like he was. We've denied Jesus in our own ways, whether by blatant statements (like Peter), or not letting our light of faith shine, or failing to trust God fully, or neglecting God’s Word, or other actions sinful before God and offensive to people. We've failed. We've sinned. We're "Peter."

Jesus’ resurrection is God’s good news for you. You have a risen Savior! Jesus died and rose again from the dead to assure you that your sins are all forgiven. You have a living Savior who loves you specially.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Do you have a favorite short phrase or saying you like to use frequently? Since I work on a golf course, I’m always telling people “to have a nice day”/or “to enjoy their round of golf”. There are plenty of phrases that people use repeatedly but despite our best intentions, words or phrases like these can, and often do, sound rather empty and somewhat meaningless.

If you, however, are looking for some of the most amazing and meaning full phrases ever uttered, look no further than to the words spoken by our Lord on the cross of Calvary on Good Friday. There you will find a treasure chest of words spoken by

our Savior that clearly show us that Jesus made the decision to go to hell for us so we could go to heaven with him. Jesus wanted to show us the full extent of his love – love that is more than we could have ever thought possible.

As the Roman soldiers drove spikes through his hands and feet to the cross, Jesus first words uttered didn't ask for revenge against his enemies. Instead he asked that his father would show mercy as he prayed "Father forgive them", (Luke 23:34). Not only did he pray for his enemies but he also prayed for our sins. He was the sacrificial Lamb of God who took away your sins, my sins, and the sins of everyone.

Jesus further showed his love for his fellow man when he comforted the thief on the cross to his right who rebuked the other criminal as he mocked Jesus. The thief knew he was receiving his due reward for his deeds. What a message of comfort the thief received when Jesus promised "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Because of his trust even though it may have been for only a short time, God rewarded his faith with the promise of eternal life in heaven. Such words should also comfort you and me as they certainly show that salvation comes by God's grace alone.

Jesus's final words from the cross teach us that everything concerning our salvation has been done for us. Our redemption was finished before we were born. What we could never do, Jesus has done for us. For believers, "It is finished" is the same as hearing our Lord say "Your sins are forgiven". Christ's sacrifice was what God desired and our sin required. Jesus already knew the cost of grace. He knew the price of forgiveness. But he offered it willingly. So strong was his love that he went straight to the cross and stayed there until it truly was finished. Nothing speaks more clearly of God's love than the cross of Jesus.

May these precious words as well as the others our Savior spoke from that cross that promised life and salvation for all, keep us in the true faith during this Easter season as well as throughout our lives.

Happy Easter and God's blessings to all,  
Greg Wendorf

### Christians in Conflict

**Wednesdays in the Word 5:00-6:00 PM**

**Starting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss this one!**

Got conflict? Foolish question! We all experience conflict. It shatters lives, causes wars, foments hatred, generates violence, divides congregations, ends marriages, destroys businesses, disrupts friendships, and wrecks health. Even a minor confrontation on the freeway can make us miserable, turning our thoughts dark with rage. What causes all this conflict? What do we really know about the anatomy of conflict? And how does God want us to react to conflict? This practical, seven-lesson course gives an in-depth look at what God has to say about conflict. It will lead us to apply biblical conflict-resolving principles to our own lives and to consider how every Christian can become a vital part of a culture of peace.

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| April 15 <sup>th</sup> | What Causes Conflict?        |
| April 22 <sup>nd</sup> | How We Deal With Conflict    |
| April 29 <sup>th</sup> | The Most Excellent Way       |
| May 6 <sup>th</sup>    | Blessed are the Peacemakers  |
| May 13 <sup>th</sup>   | Peacemakers and Faith Lesson |
| May 20 <sup>th</sup>   | Equipped for Peacemaking     |
| May 27 <sup>th</sup>   | Hard Teachings               |

### Let's Grow and Be Mature:

**(A Study of the Book of James)**

**Sunday mornings from 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM**

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 19 <sup>th</sup> | Dealing with Trials and Temptations |
| April 26 <sup>th</sup> | A Dynamic Faith                     |
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Taming the Tongue                   |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Dealing with Conflict               |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Manipulated by Money                |
| May 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Learning Patience                   |

Join us for this practical study of a Bible book which has much to say about how to handle the challenging situations we face in our faith life as Christians.

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

APRIL 2015

### Wednesday in the Word at 5:00 PM

(Led by Pastor Schulz)

\_\_\_ **Christians in Conflict:** (7 Sessions, April 15<sup>th</sup> thru May 27<sup>th</sup>).

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

\_\_\_ Bible Study at church – Monday, **April 13<sup>th</sup>**, 1:00 PM. SPLASH will be going to Water Oak for a Brunch **April 19<sup>th</sup>**. Leaving church at 11:00 AM. For more information please contact: Joan Sanderson, Nancy Rodriguez, and Angela Spengler.

### North Country Group (Led by Alan Johnson)

\_\_\_ Meeting twice a month on Sundays from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Meeting at the home of Alan & Pam Johnson

**April 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

Topic: Whole Bible Project: 1, 2, 3 John.

### 466A Group and Vicinity (Led by Pastor Schulz)

\_\_\_ This group will meet once a month on a Tuesday.

**The next meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup>** from 2:00-4:00 PM at the home of Jim & Sandy Fehlhaber.

Topic: Taming of the Tongue.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

(Led by Dennis Duessler)

\_\_\_ **Men at Leisure meets at Perkins Restaurant at 8:30 AM on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**. Travel through Great Chapters of the Bible this spring.

Perkins located on CR 466.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (Led by Judy Anderson)

\_\_\_ **Stay Tuned for an exciting Bible Study starting in early May, 2015.**

### Open Bible Book Club (Pastor Schulz)

\_\_\_ Group meets at church on Tuesday **April 28<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 PM. "America the Beautiful" by Dr. Ben Carson. Please sign-up with Karen so she knows how many books to order. Cost is approx. \$10.00 - \$16.00.

### Women of Open Bible (Led by Sandy Hahm)

\_\_\_ **Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 PM. Meets on the Second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM for service, spiritual growth and fellowship.

### Happy Hearts-Happy Hands Handiwork

\_\_\_ Meets on the first Friday of each month at church from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Next meeting **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also does knitting, crochet, and embroidery.

Coordinator: Sandy Pawlowski

### Fellowship Group (Led by Joe and Paula Malec)

\_\_\_ Meets once a month for a recreational activity.

### GRIEF CARE

\_\_\_ Grief Care (Facilitated by Patricia Major )

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

### Defenders (Led by Ken Wells and Bill Sigurdson)

\_\_\_ Meets on the last Friday of the month at 11:00 AM.

Meeting on **April 24<sup>th</sup>** at the Leesburg Gun Range on SR44. Contact Bill Sigurdson for more info.

### Women of Riches (Led by Pam Riches)

\_\_\_ Will start up again in May. Info to follow soon.

### New Life in Christ (Led by Pastor Schulz)

\_\_\_ Take a look at God, creation, the work of the Holy Spirit, Baptism, Lord's Supper, the dual natures of Jesus Christ, Heaven and Hell, Judgment Day and more. Class is a good refresher for members and pre-requisite for those wanting to join Open Bible. New classes starting soon.

## WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

### Ron and Lois Klatt



Ron and Lois might be considered newlyweds by many of us as they have been married only five years. They both expressed how fortunate they are

that God brought their lives together. Ron expressed that he didn't care to talk about his life's difficulties and they both said that almost everyone experiences great difficulties in life at some point.

But, both Ron and Lois lost very loving spouses after years of very difficult illnesses. Ron also lost a 35 year old daughter to the same hereditary disease (Huntington's) which took his wife at 45 years old. Lois lost her husband to cancer after a difficult five year struggle. Ron has one remaining child and two grandchildren and Lois has four children and five grandchildren.

By chance, even though Ron and Lois had known each other for many years, they happened to meet again in Florida when Ron was visiting family who were spending the winter in Leesburg. They are both most thankful this fortuitous meeting took place.

Both Ron and Lois are from the Rochester New York area and had fulfilling careers, mostly in Western New York. Ron worked 25 years for General Motors; twelve of those were as a supervisor. Upon retiring from General Motors, Ron opened a canvas and boat cover business which he ran for nine years. Ron started his working years by farming with the family at age nine. At first they farmed with dairy cows, then beef, and eventually the farm specialized in vegetables. Ron has seven brothers and one sister and today, the New York farm land is still owned by family.

Lois has a Bachelor's degree in medical technology and worked fifteen years in hematology and oncology, and 12 years in Pharmaceutical research. Lois said if she had to do it over, she would have worked in forensic pathology.

Ron and Lois, like many of our Open Bible members, came from a different religious background. Lois was raised Episcopalian and Ron and Lois belonged to a small Baptist Church in the Villages area. They felt unfulfilled in that church environment and were searching for an answer to their dilemma when they visited Open Bible. They said with Pastor Schulz meeting them at the church door, the home visits he made, and the visit by Duane Anderson, they became convinced Open Bible had what they needed.

In regard to looking back and advice to give, Ron said he gave his children all he could, along with as much love as possible. Ron and the children dealt with the difficulty of mom being in a nursing home

and with their family life having to continue as normally as possible. Ron said he probably indulged his children in excesses, but under the circumstances, he is very happy he did. He took his children with him wherever he went and tried in every way to help make their life better.

Ron said it is clear to him how important it is to make life more enjoyable for those around you and not be only concerned about yourself. Both Lois and Ron feel so very blessed, (in spite of the great difficulties they endured), and they are so very thankful for life. They expressed, "don't let the little things stress you and rejoice every day over what God gives you".

Ron and Lois – you are wonderful testaments to keeping our lives positive and grateful. We are most pleased to have you worshiping with us at Open Bible.

By Michael Benrud

## MLS CHOIR CONCERT

### **Michigan Lutheran Seminary Concert Choir "God's Word in Song" Our Great Heritage Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Open Bible Lutheran Church**

Everyone is welcome, invite your friends,

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### **March Council Highlights**

The church council met on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Following are the highlights from the meeting:

- January income was \$5,433 more than expenses. The mortgage balance as of 2/28/15 was \$400,097.
- A Passover demonstration table will be set up in the fellowship hall.
- The building committee is in the process of getting more information regarding the

different options for expanding the church building.

- Dennis Duessler has been added to the board of elders.
- We will look into the possibility of having an outdoor sunrise service for Easter in 2016.
- There will be no Council meeting in June.

## WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

Women of Open Bible will meet April 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

We will elect new officers for President and Secretary at this meeting.

Thank you to all the ladies who helped make our Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show a huge success. 92 ladies attended the luncheon.

Hostesses for April are Sandy Hahm and Carol Yahn.

All ladies are welcome.

Sandy Hahm, President

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Arline & John Kiewra – 5  
Bob & Sharon Sanner – 7  
Mike & Pat Holmes – 8  
Ted & Sandy Hahm – 15  
Jim & Marion Petrie – 16  
Ron & Joanne Stuedemann – 27

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jack Miller – 1  
Gene McConkey – 4  
Norma Phillips – 5  
Jim Petrie – 6  
Jerry Brooks – 10  
Walt Farnsworth – 10  
Barb Matthias – 11  
Jerry Mucci – 12  
Amy Hand – 13  
Shane Thise – 20  
Marion Petrie – 22  
Bill Stocks – 22  
Mike Butzow – 23  
Huns Gustrowsky – 27  
Pastor Dale – 29