



# Newsletter



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**DECEMBER 2018**

**VOLUME 13 No. 12**

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## **From the Pastor**

**by Pastor Mark Schulz**

**"Show Us the Way Lord!"**

***"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So, after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off." Acts 13:2-3***

As I read the Scriptures, I observe that before the apostle Paul (Saul) and Barnabas were sent off on a mission trip, the congregation did some fasting and praying. The congregation wanted the Lord to lead them and direct them in where they should go to proclaim the Gospel. They really had no idea up to that point, exactly where they should go.

At this time, we at Open Bible don't know exactly where we should go either. Ideas have been floating around about Fenney mission outreach, reaching young families, expanding our ministry to the independent living homes. But one important item has not been emphasized. And that is prayer. The early Christians did a lot of praying before they set off on a mission expansion program. They even did some fasting. They wanted to show God that they were intent on carrying out his

great commission, but needed Him to direct them. It needed to be God's idea, not their idea.

Therefore, I am asking everyone of you at Open Bible to pray each day for the next several months to our God, asking him, the direction he wants us to go. Pray that he gives us clear signs and puts potential opportunities in front of us. May He help us to carry out our mission statement. That is to **"Grow in Christ through His Word and make His Salvation Known"**.

Open Bible is a special congregation. It is filled with a wonderful group of Christians who love their Savior and love each other. We have a harvest field of lost souls, that need to know Jesus all around us. Right now, we all need to pray. Ask Jesus to show us the way we should go in ministry to reach souls that don't know him. Ask him to show us the best way to use our offering money. Ask him to keep providing us opportunities to share his Word with the World. And be sure to Thank Him for all that He has done to bless this congregation. With the apostle Paul, I close with these words. *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."* (Philippians 1:3-5)

## President's Message

I don't know about you for sure but I expect that we were all very glad when Election Day finally arrived and we no longer had to put up with the continuous showing of political campaign commercials. It got to the point where it was extremely frustrating watching a program knowing it would be only a short time until another negative (for the most part) commercial would be aired. I realize the importance of electing the best possible candidate for public office but if you paid close attention to most of the ads it was difficult to figure out who was the most qualified. And then we had to deal with the vote recount in a couple of close races.

That being said, I came across the following wonderful article on Facebook and much to my surprise it was posted by one of my two sisters - in - law. It left me with a real sense of delight knowing the elections were over (for the time being) and we could focus once again on what is really important in our lives. There is no negativity in the following article just a number of great examples of God's great love for each of us.

AFTER the Election is over, we can still guarantee these results:

- 1) God will still be on His Throne
- 2) Jesus will still be King of kings and Lord of lords.
- 3) The Bible will still have all the answers to every problem.
- 4) The tomb will still be empty.
- 5) Jesus will still be the only way to heaven.
- 6) Prayer will still work – it will still make a difference and God will still answer prayer.
- 7) The cross, not the government, will still be our salvation.

- 8) There will still be room at the cross.
- 9) Jesus will still save anyone who places their faith and trust in Him.
- 10) God will still be with us always – He will never leave us or forsake us.

What a great God we have. And with the arrival of the Holiday season and its traditions and festivities let's be sure to save our most sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" for our good, merciful and loving God. Enjoy the Holidays and the greatest of gifts from our God – The birth of His Son Jesus!  
Happy Holidays!

All God's Blessings,  
Greg Wendorf



Mornings with Mommy: We will be continuing 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 next group sessions are Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Any questions contact Jane Valley.



## LWMS NEWS

### United to Serve Jesus

Advent is the season to prepare our hearts and minds for celebrating the birth of our Savior. Our missionaries are sharing the good news of Salvation through Jesus Christ to people everywhere. The North Florida Circuit of LWMS has identified the following missions and missionaries as our particular missions to support through the Befriend a Mission program. At this time of year, we are asked to find ways to support and encourage them. Please consider adding these missionaries and their families to your Christmas card list. Many times, at Rallies and at the conference I have heard how important notes of encouragement and thanks were to them. The addresses will be posted on the LWMS display in the fellowship hall. There will be some cards there that you can use to send a note to a family. Also consider adding them to your personal prayer list this season.

News from the CAMM. Cheryl Valus our Central Africa Medical Mission, CAMM stateside coordinator has indicated they have enough pill bottles for the time being. They have limited storage. As we are limited here also, we will no longer

be accepting pill bottles. We currently have enough bottles to ship 3-4 boxes when they call for them again. An ongoing need is for sunscreen, SPF 50, in lotion or tubes, no sprays. Both bottles and sunscreen are costly to ship. Donations toward shipping costs are welcomed. A donation can be made along with your regular Sunday offering or a separate envelop indicating it is for WINGS- shipping.

Last I received an email from the Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti. Several ladies made Christmas Pencil cases for the children and Open Bible made a generous gift this past year to their program. I am including an excerpt of their Christmas list, that some who have a special place in their hearts for Haiti or children, may want to consider.

### **"Please consider a one-time gift or a regularly scheduled monthly commitment.**

- \$25 a month provides six children with books and uniforms for the year.
- \$50 a month equips classrooms with basic supplies.
- \$100 a month allows us to add one classroom a year.
- \$150 a month provides water at a school.
- \$200 a month pays a teacher's salary.

Whatever your tax-deductible gift, please know that **your loving support is life-changing** for these orphans and impoverished neighborhood children. Your gifts to Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti, help us in our goal to spread the gospel, literacy, and hope. Thank you for your support, love, and prayers.

It seems that this time of year there are many requests for donations to many worthwhile causes. I am letting you

know about some of our mission activities and their needs so that you may consider them in your giving. God has blessed us so richly, that if you are able to assist in any way sharing those blessings it will be greatly appreciated. May your hearts and homes overflow with Joy as we relive the anticipation of the birth of Jesus during this Advent season. Merry Christmas

Peggi Carrier  
LWMS Reporter for Open Bible

### Advent Services:

Join us for Advent worship as we celebrate the wonderful name of Jesus, "the name that is above every name" (Philippians 2:9). It is the name we love, the name by which we are saved.

Advent 2: December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Soup/Salad Supper at 4:30 P.M.  
Worship at 5:30 P.M.  
Call His Name Jesus:  
*Lamb*

In our Advent worship, we will remember that Jesus is the Lamb of God, the perfect, innocent Lamb who was sacrificed on the cross. His death and resurrection set us free from our slavery to sin and death.

Advent 3: December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Soup/Salad Supper at 4:30 P.M.  
Worship at 5:30 P.M.  
Call His Name Jesus:  
*Shepherd*

Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose birth was announced to shepherds in Bethlehem, is also our Shepherd. In our Advent worship, we will praise our Good Shepherd, who had the authority to lay

down his life to save his sheep and to take up his life again.



### 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 any **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. **Next meeting December 21st.**

#### WinGS: Women in God's Service



**WINGS**  
WOMEN IN GODS SERVICE

Led by: Jane Valley  
Our first meeting of the year will be in January.

Some of the WinGS trips include a trip in January to the Spice and Tea Exchange in Brownwood (The Villages.) Please

sign-up because space is limited. Our Vice-President, Mary Helen Schultz is a very good activity planner.

Our annual Christmas Lunch will be a Havana Country Club this year on **Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon.** Please bring a wrapped \$5.00 ornament to exchange. Havana CC is located in The Villages at 2484 Odell Circle. Which is just north of 466A & Morse Blvd. Please sign-up so we can give them a count!

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



Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler  
This December meeting will be on **Friday, December**

**14<sup>th</sup>** at 8:30am. Meeting will be at the Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466 in The Villages.

### **North Country Group**

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

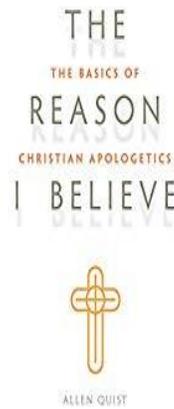
This Bible Study will be on Sundays, from 6:00 – 8:00pm. The North Country Bible Study Group will view the movie "The Nativity" on **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018** at 6 p.m. at the home of Alan and Pam Johnson. All are welcome, particularly those in the Ocala area!

### **Ladies Tuesday Bible Study**

Led by Pam Johnson

The Ladies Bible study will continue on Tuesday's at **2:00 p.m.** (new time) in the fellowship hall at Open Bible. In this Bible Study you will read about "The Women of Christmas." Please contact Pam Johnson if you are interested.

### **466A Group Bible Study:** The group is



led by Pastor Rodger Dale. **466A Bible Study in the New Year**

Beginning January 8<sup>th</sup> the 466A Bible Study will be reading and discussing the book: *The Reason I Believe* by Professor Allen Quist. Mr. Quist was a

professor of religion and psychology at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN from 1968-1981. In 1981 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives where he served three terms. Currently he is adjunct professor of Apologetics at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mankato.

The eight-session study will meet in homes the **second and fourth Tuesdays of January—April at 2:00 pm.** We will study and discuss the following:

- What is Christian Apologetics and how did the apostles employ apologetics in their teaching?
- Four Arguments for the existence of God.
- How did the Old Testament believers know who were the true prophets and who were false?
- What Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled by Christ?
- What is the historical evidence for the resurrection of Christ?
- How do we know we can trust the four Gospels in the New Testament?
- What is the archeological evidence for the reliability of the Bible?
- How do we know we can trust the reports about Jesus' miracles?
- What is the evidence that the Shroud of Turin is really the burial cloth of Christ?

- How do you explain the presence of evil in the world?
- Is Darwinism true and does it disprove the Bible's story of creation?
- What is Natural Law?

If you are interested in this study, sign up at church as soon as possible so we can order books and arrange hosts for all the sessions. If enough people sign up we will divide into two groups.

**Choir:** Open Bible Choir practices on Wednesday's at 6:15 pm, following the Advent Worship Service. 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.



**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. **Joe Malec is looking for volunteers to help out!**

**Saturday Duffers Golfing** outside

The Villages. Join a group of golfers at different Golf courses on Saturday mornings. 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. And Richard Mason.

**The Defenders**



Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Jim Johnson. The Defenders will meet **Thursday, December**

**20<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. The Reformation BBQ was a huge "hit." Everyone seemed to enjoy the delicious food, good fellowship and a few games, including a Martin Luther Trivia quiz. Thank you everyone who attended and brought a dish to pass or desserts to enjoy! Plans are being made for 2019.

**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)

**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.

**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, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm** at Open Bible.

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

**SPLASH:** Single People Loving and Serving Him, Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale. SPLASH will meet on **Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. They will meet at Olive Garden for a Christmas Lunch at 11:30am and then a Bible Study will follow at 1:00pm at Open Bible.

**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:** Band of Brothers! 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 **December 1<sup>st</sup> is the next meeting, 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. Please sign-up so the proper amount of breakfast items can be

purchased. A \$3.00 offering will offset this cost. **Topic: December 1<sup>st</sup>: Visiting Heaven: Are these visits for real?**

**HANDBELLS:** Handbells meet for rehearsals every **Sunday at 11:00am**. All interested in playing hand bells please join us. Reading music is not necessary, keeping time and watching for your turn to ring is all that is needed. Contact Pam Johnson if interested.



**Praise Band:** Looking for members that might be interested is playing with a "Praise Band." If you play, guitar, bass guitar, drums, piano (keyboard), or percussion, please speak with Karen Pearson.

### **Early Bird Bible Study**



**I Timothy:** Focusing on the vital importance of sound doctrine (that is, teaching), Paul writes to Timothy that the Gospel is essential to the church's life, for it gives the divine gift of faith even to blasphemers and persecutors and violent men. Yet the Law is also good, and it must be used properly. The church's faithful teaching of the pure Word of God—both Law and Gospel—must never become mixed with false teachings, because such falsehoods will only lead people away from the faith. *December 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Value of Faith Above All Other Things ( I Timothy 6:3-21)*



## Advent by Candlelight

On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm the ladies of Open bible Lutheran Church will be celebrating our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Advent by Candlelight Service. This beautiful and meaningful evening is a way to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior at Christmas, as we come together for fellowship and devotion. With the lights turned down we begin in the Fellowship Hall at decorated tables that will sparkle with candles and decorations. Your hostess will serve a wonderful dessert prepared just for her table. After dessert, we move into the Sanctuary to join in a special Advent service with devotions and hymns to encourage us to prepare for the Christmas season. This year's theme "Is There A Star In Your Eyes?" is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship with other Christian women as well as an opportunity to invite friends and neighbors. All women and friends of open Bible are invited. We look forward to seeing you there. Please call the church office and speak to Karen Pearson if you would like to attend (we have just a few seats left!)

### Pastor Dale Needs Help!

On the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, starting at 9:30am, Pastor Dale walks over to "The Willows of Wildwood" (next to Open Bible) and begins by playing music on his "Bluetooth speaker" and singing a few hymns. He is looking for a few singers that would like to join him. He will have a simple Bible Devotion with all the residents from "The Willows" (memory care facility). So, please join "Hymns & More with Pastor Dale!" Contact Pastor Dale for more information.

## 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!

## Poinsettia Plants

If you would like to defray the cost of decorating the Altar area with the



Poinsettia plants the special cost to us this year for larger 1.6 gallon plants is \$15.00 per plant (retail at \$20.00) which we obtained through

Lowe's in the Villages. We will be ordering 8 red and 8 white plants. Please place your check (made out to Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church), or cash in a separate envelope with your **Name** and the word **Poinsettias** on it and place it in the collection plate. The plants will be available to take home after the December 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve service. Please contact Carol Stauske at 352-292-3079.

## Happy Anniversary

Elvin & Jennifer Schlegel – 24  
Doug & Claudette Tharp – 28  
Dave & Lynn Buss – 31  
Jim & Jeanette Kellam – 31

## Happy Birthday

Aimee Occhetti – 2  
Mary Burel – 5  
Carol Mehlberg - 6  
Dorothy Plybon – 7  
Nancy Kuepker - 7  
Karen Dahm – 9  
Fred Hainen - 9  
Karen Pearson – 9  
Larry Fronk – 10  
Ron Klatt - 12  
Carol Benrud—14  
Duane Anderson—14  
Lynn Buss - 14  
Pam "PJ" Johnson – 15  
Margie O'Connell – 16  
Carole Sheidler - 19  
Ruth Vance – 20  
Elisabeth Wells – 22  
Barbara Chapman - 27  
Shirley Roback – 27

### Wednesdays

Advent Soup Supper  
Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm  
Advent Services 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Service: 5:30 pm  
Christmas Day Service: 10:00 am  
New Year's Eve Service: 5:30 pm

**Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Pastor Mark M Schulz**  
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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.)



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