



## FROM THE PASTOR

### What's in a Name?

His name will be called, "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
Isaiah 9:6

Before our daughter was born some 31 years ago, Jeanne and I looked into baby books to try and find a suitable name. We came up with Benjamin if he was a boy, and Carolyn, if she was a girl. Obviously, many of you know we had a girl, Carolyn. The name means, "Joyful spirit". Carolyn has indeed brought us great joy, but I can't always say she has had a joyful spirit.

The names we give our children often indicate the hopes we have for them. They may carry on a family tradition. Names with special meaning do not always suit the persons bearing them. But the names Isaiah gave to Jesus tell us exactly what He would be like and what He would mean to those who believe in Him as the Savior.

The name Wonderful applies to Jesus because those who come to Him for salvation experience the wonders of His love. They are not disappointed. With this name Isaiah combines the next one: Counselor. Christ is the one to whom you and I turn for guidance and advice.

The Messiah is also Mighty God, able to provide help in every time of difficulty and to free us from the final judgment of our sins. The name Everlasting Father indicates that He is eternally concerned about the welfare of His people. The final name is Prince of Peace; He restores the right relationship between God and His people. What's in His name? Everything.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for providing me such a perfect Savior, so wonderfully capable to care for all my needs.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I began writing this article, Christmas is still a few weeks away. Oh, you can tell the season is upon us as much of our attention is focused on the material side of the holidays. Many of us have made travel plans to visit distant family and friends. And if you are not visiting elsewhere you are probably gathering with family and/or friends in your own home or at the home of friends/neighbors. Your shopping may or may not be finished and your tree may be up and decorated. Regardless of your particular situation you are keenly aware that it's getting closer to that special day.

We refer to Christmas as the season of giving and spend a great deal of our time searching for the perfect gift for everyone on our list. There is a special excitement that goes along with being with our loved ones and watching them open their presents and then enjoying a wonderful Christmas dinner together. The list of special holiday events is quite lengthy, but let's keep in mind that these things, as nice as they can be, are only seasonal.

If you venture out to take in the sights and sounds, you will probably see a few reminders to keep Christ in Christmas on front lawns and bumper stickers but they seem to be in the minority. There are so many who seem content to mark the season with nothing more than gifts, decorations, and gatherings.

But Christmas is and has always been about a very special birthday, and at the center of it all is Jesus. While the things mentioned above are temporary, the real meaning of Christmas is forever! Like everything, God planned Christmas even before he created the world. Ever since the fall into sin, God said there would be Christmas. And we became the recipients of the only gift that really matters—God’s “incredible gift!” (2Cor.9:15). Jesus was born to die for the sins of the world. This baby brought forgiveness, life, salvation, and real hope. He kept all of God’s commandments perfectly his entire life. He loved His Father above everything else and He loved his neighbor as himself. He went so far as to put the needs of all of us ahead of himself. Jesus met God’s holy standard of perfection, and we get the credit for it. That’s a much greater gift than any of us deserve.

As you prepare for Christmas, I am sure you have a lot to do. But the true work of Christmas is already done by our God. Jesus is the one who came to be born in Bethlehem. He is true God and true man who has come as our Savior.

You may celebrate Christmas like everyone else, expecting gifts and family gatherings. But don’t let those things rob you of the real Christmas, the celebration of his birth. The goodness and faithfulness of God to us is found in the birth of the Savior. And as you celebrate, look heavenward to where Christmas continues without end.

All God’s blessings,  
Greg Wendorf

## ADVENT SERVICES

### Mid-week Advent Services

4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Soup-Sandwich Supper from 4:45-5:45 PM

### Comfort and Joy

During these troubled and unsettled times, sense the true comfort and joy that Christ brings this Advent season with the Comfort and Joy weekly Advent series. Each week you will find out about the different types of comfort Christ comes

to bring (revealed in Isaiah 40) and experience the resulting joy that can be lived out in Advent.

Hymns in the series include “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People,” “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry,” “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel,” and “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates.”

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** The Peace of Christ (Isaiah 40:1-2): True peace comes only through Jesus Christ and the forgiveness that he brings. He ends warfare without and within. He is the Prince of Peace.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>:** The Presence of Christ (Isaiah 40:6-9): We remember that Christ is present with us now and that he will come again in glory on the Last Day.

**December 17<sup>th</sup>:** The Power of Christ (Isaiah 40:10-11): God himself came to live among us and be our Savior, but his power was displayed in the weakness and humility of the manger and the cross.

## GUEST SPEAKER AT OPEN BIBLE

On December 7<sup>th</sup> in both our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM worship services, Pastor James Mattek of WLCFS-Christian Family Solutions will be our guest preacher. He will share more about the healing & helping ministries of WLCFS, which include Christian counseling, in-home care services, and senior living solutions. Pastor Mattek has served WLCFS since 2004. Prior to WLCFS, Pastor Mattek was a parish pastor serving congregations in Watertown, WI and Findlay, OH. As Director of Ministry at WLCFS, Pastor Mattek provides doctrinal leadership and works in mission advancement. To learn more about WLCFS-Christian Family Solutions, please visit [www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org](http://www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org).



## HOLIDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Come Celebrate the Wonderful Gift of Christmas!

Christmas Eve – 6:00 PM  
Christmas Day – 9:30 AM  
New Year's Eve – 6:00 PM

## CHRISTMAS IN THE COURTYARD

Open Bible will have a booth at the Christmas in the Courtyard celebration in front of the Wildwood Town Hall on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be giving out brochures, candy canes, golf tees with a business card, oversized post cards, and Bibles. Our choir is scheduled to sing Christmas carols from 4:40 to 5:00 PM. Stop by our booth and say hello to Sally Stocks, El and Jennifer Schlegel, and enjoy the festivities.

Below is the banner that will be displayed at our booth in Wildwood.



**OPEN BIBLE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4671 Bellwether Lane  
Oxford, FL 34484  
**352 753 9038**  
Pastor Mark Schulz

[www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com](http://www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com)



## CHURCH DECORATING



We will be decorating the Church's Christmas tree on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Your help in decorating the tree will be much appreciated.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

New Sunday Worship times starting December 7<sup>th</sup>.

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM  
Fellowship from 9:00 – 10:00 AM

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us in giving thanks for



### “The Perfect Gift”

A Christmas Concert at Open Bible on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM** with Susan Ann.

A freewill offering will be taken to help support Susan Ann's music ministry.

Susan Ann CD's will be available.

## WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE



Our featured Open Bible member this month is Arline Kiewra. Hopefully, Arline doesn't mind having her age revealed, but it is remarkable that she is 81 with the appearance of someone 15 years younger,

blessed with youthfulness admired by us all.

Arline is married to John who is 85 and they have lived in the Village of Tall Trees with their dog Oliver since September of 2005. John was with the heavy equipment operating engineers, running cranes, bulldozers and other heavy equipment in the New York area. He then became a lead supervisor engineer and retired after 32 years in the business.

Arline and John were blessed with two sons, both of whom lived with their wives near the Villages here in Florida. Arline said if she had life to do over, she maybe would have had one more child, and if so blessed, a girl, and she would have gone to college to be an interior decorator. A great tragedy struck the Kiewra family when their youngest son, Jim, was hit by an intoxicated driver and was killed in 2009. Arline said there are no words to describe the difficulty in dealing with the loss of a child from a sudden accident. Their eldest son Jack and his wife Pat, still live in the Villages.

John and Arline met at a skating rink and were later married in St John's Lutheran Church in Merrick, New York. They have been married 62 years, which might be a record for Open Bible members.

Arline worked for some years at Talbots, a women's clothing store, but mostly was able to care for her family. She likes water aerobics, bridge and cooking. Arline is at Open Bible because the church is similar in size and practice to what she grew up with and probably most significant, she felt a warmth to Pastor Schultz. She visited other churches but didn't feel comfortable with the super casualness of flip flops, shorts, etc. in the Sunday service. She greatly appreciates the upscale pride shown by our Open Bible members regarding appearance and reverence for the Sabbath Day.

Arline's words of advice: life is short so enjoy each day. She and John did a lot of traveling with a motor home. They had a summer home on Fire Island New York and in general, they explored and enjoyed their time together. One final note is that Arline and John are great grandparents to the first sextuplets in Florida, 5 boys and 1 girl. Congratulations, and welcome to Open Bible.

By Michael Benrud

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The church council met on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Here are the highlights from the meeting:

- October expenses were \$5,210 more than income. Even though we have had 5

negative months so far this year, we still have a positive year to date amount of \$4,909. The mortgage balance as of 10/30/14 was \$409,734.

- Approval was given for having the quilters make quilts containing the Open Bible logo for use in handing out to people in the hospital as an outreach tool. Money will be put in the 2015 budget to cover the costs for these quilts.
- The Christmas tree will be set up in church on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.
- We will have a door collection for WLCFS on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> when Pastor Mattek will be preaching and making a short presentation about WLCFS after each service.
- A new member welcome will be held on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>.
- A new light will be purchased for the organ.
- The church will match the donations that the Women of Open Bible are giving to Calvary Academy and East Fork Lutheran School of \$100 each.

## WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE NEWS

Merry Christmas everyone!

Ladies don't forget to sign up for the Christmas Party at the kitchen pass through.

**Where:** Thai Ruby Restaurant at Sumter Landing in the Villages. We will order off the menu.

**When:** Friday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM.

Please bring a wrapped White Elephant gift. This gift is optional.

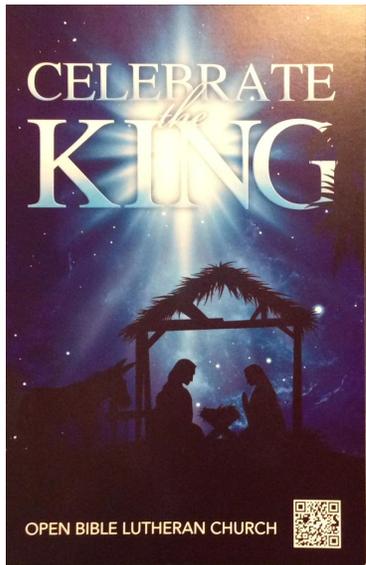
Wishing all a Happy and a healthy New Year!



The Rally in Tally  
 March 13-15, 2015  
 Faith Lutheran Church, Tallahassee

The spring 2015 LWMS Rally will be a retreat with events occurring Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday morning. Feel free to join us for all or a portion of the events. Register early. Please see Sandy Hahm for registration forms and hotel information.

**Christmas cards to invite your friends to our Christmas services are available on the Friendship Table.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



- Christina Langer – 2
- Tom Kramer – 4
- Mary Burel – 5
- Dorothy Plybon – 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
- Chance Langer – 19
- Ruth Vance – 20
- Elisabeth Wells – 22
- Mary Price – 26
- Shirley Roback – 27

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



- Tom & Pat Kramer – 18
- Elvin & Jennifer Schlegel – 24
- Fred & Gail Rathgeber – 28
- Dave & Lynn Buss – 31
- Jim and Jeanette Kellam – 31