

LENTEN SERVICES

Names of Wondrous Love

During our Lenten Journey in 2013 we will be considering the names by which our Savior has been called on the pages of Scripture. Each name will point to an important truth that we will want to take home each week. Our Lenten services this year will begin on February 13th at 4:00 and 6:00 pm. A light supper will be served between 4:45-5:45 pm.



Here is a listing of the Names of Wondrous Love we will consider each week during Lent:

February 13 th	Jesus - Luke 22:39-46
February 20 th	Immanuel - John 18:3-12
February 27 th	The Truth - John 18:37,38
March 6 th	King - John 18:33-37
March 13 th	Christ Crucified - John 19:16-18
March 20 th	The Way - Luke 23:39-43

FROM THE PASTOR

Love Takes a Towel!

The cross is the greatest symbol of the Christian faith. But perhaps the towel should be regarded as the next most important symbol. It reminds us of the kind of loving and lowly service we want to offer to those around us. We so frequently think of ourselves first. We are concerned about our health, our social calendar, our hobbies. Our neighbor is often forgotten or simply used as a tool to promote our own welfare. But Jesus wants us always to think of others first.

Jesus is our example in this. He used a towel to serve others. It was the night when He was betrayed by one of His own disciples. He might have felt only self-pity and concern for His own welfare. Moreover, it was the eve of His great task of suffering and dying for all men. Therefore He might have been justified in concentrating

only on Himself and His Work. Instead He does the slave's job of washing the disciples' feet and wiping them dry with a towel. He thought of others first and foremost. Jesus took up the towel for our example. He also took up the cross for our salvation. Because he died for us, we live to serve him, by serving others. Love still takes a towel.

Please consider joining us at Open Bible for our Lenten services beginning on Wednesday February 13th at either 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm. A light supper will be served between the two services.

In addition to our special Lenten Services, there are other new groups that will be meeting in February. A Young Couple's small group will begin on February 17th at the home of Matt and Dorothy Draeger from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. The topic will be on marriage, and will be led by Pastor Schulz. The group will meet every other Sunday for 5 sessions. Our Thursday adult information class, "New Life in Christ" will continue throughout Lent from 3:00-4:30 pm. at church. This class is a good refresher for members and a way for newcomers to one day join our church. Worship Services at Steeplechase will begin on Sunday February 10th at 11:30 am. Sunday seems a better day for this outreach effort than Tuesday nights. Right now attention is being focused on follow-up calls on our prospects, presenting job descriptions to our church council for an evangelism committee, and finalizing some oversized postcards that could be used for invites to our Easter services.

Thank you members of Open Bible for providing us with a church secretary. Karen Pearson is a blessing as she helps our work move forward. Her office hours are Monday 9:00-12:00, Wednesday 9:00-4:00 (hour lunch break), and Thursdays, 12:00-3:30 P.M. Pastor Schulz will be available every day of the week, except Fridays, which he is taking as his family day. If you have an emergency on Friday, you can still reach him on his cell phone. Go Open Bible!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To say that Open Bible has been a hot bed of activity over the past year would probably be a bit of an understatement. Much has happened and change and growth is occurring all around us. It began early in the year when Pastor Dale announced his intentions to retire at the end of this past summer. This announcement set the council in motion, under synod direction, to find his replacement. As a part of that process we were required to survey the congregation to assist with the calling. That survey indicated a need to do a better job of outreach and also to listening to the voices of our members. The council then set out to accomplish those tasks. Even before Pastor's announcement, our annual audit suggested that we change some of our accounting practices at Open Bible for better overall church accountability. This eventually led the council to create an organizational flow chart of leadership that was adopted in October. We now have what we feel is a much better means of communication between the different organizations in our church and the church council. A copy of this chart can be found in the annual report as well as a copy in the back of the church directory. You, as members, will also find it much easier to determine who to contact with a particular question or concern. We truly hope this does indeed improve the lines of communication.

As summer progressed we also finished our long range planning work and now have an updated plan in place. Our next major project, as a council, is to look at our original constitution and, more importantly, our current by-laws and address a number of issues that need to be changed. We plan to finish that task in the coming months.

In keeping with the theme of change we would like to single out a couple of individuals for their service and dedication to Open Bible. Ruth Vance has decided to retire from her position of church financial secretary. She is an original member of this congregation and is the only financial secretary we have ever had. On behalf of every one at Open

Bible we say "Thank You" Ruth for your service and congratulations on a job well done. Ruth will continue in a similar position with the Ladies of Open Bible and will also be available to assist our current financial secretary. The other individual we would like to single out and thank is Bill Sigurdson, who was an early member of this church and has diligently served for the past two years as first the church council treasurer, and then as secretary. Bill will now replace Ruth as financial secretary. "Thank You", also Bill for a job well done and we look forward to continuing to work together with both you and Ruth for years to come.

The arrival of Pastor Schulz in late August ushered in an expanded emphasis on outreach and bringing new people into Open Bible. As everyone knows by now this emphasis is truly a part of the passion for the ministry that burns inside of Pastor. He has spoken to many people about Christ and put on numerous miles in travel as he seeks to not only bring potential members to our doors but more importantly bringing them closer to their Savior. Many new faces are seen in our church pews on Sunday mornings and a large number of them have become assimilated into our ever growing family. Many of them have been appointed to standing committees or have gotten involved already in service projects.

We have also added a part time office secretary position to assist Pastor with his work and to better serve the many growing needs of this congregation.

As we mentioned in the beginning, change and growth are going to occur, and we at Open Bible are learning to accept and embrace these processes. But the most important aspect of our church has not changed and hopefully never will. God's word continues to be taught and preached to us in its truth and purity each and every time we meet. As long as we remain faithful to God's word he will remain faithful to us and wonderful things will continue to happen to Open Bible. You can count on the fact that he will continue to watch over and bless this congregation.

God's blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

By Leslie Nelson



By now most of us have had a chance to chat with Peggi Carrier, another of our new associate members. Peggi was born in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, but raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She

attended Stephenson Area Public Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, and then Western Michigan U for her BA, Central Michigan U for a Special Education certificate and ended up earning her Master's degree in Elementary Education from Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

Raised in a Christian home, Peggi attended and was confirmed in the Evangelical Covenant Church and was baptized in a Baptist church in Caro, MI. She took adult confirmation classes at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Daggett, MI, in 1981, and she and her husband, Gilbert, were long-time members there. They were married for 31 years after being introduced by one of her friends. Peggi is a widow now. Their one child, Eric, is an instrumental and vocal music teacher in Muskegon.

Peggi was an elementary school teacher and has taught all ages, including Adult Basic Ed. She has lived in Michigan all her life, mostly in the U. P. and currently spends about 5 months a year in Florida.

As to her favorite foods, she says it is easier to name what she doesn't like - mushrooms, shrimp, olives and tofu! Her favorite authors include Terri Blackstock, Jan Karon (Father Timothy/Mitford series) and Rita Mae Brown (Sneaky Pie mysteries). She likes watching Dancing with the Stars, Castle, The Closer and Hallmark Channel movies.

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting of the Worship Committee was held on January 3rd. The main topic of discussion centered around a review of the Advent and Christmas services. We also looked at the services for the

upcoming Lenten season. Pastor stated that he would be looking for special liturgies that could be used during the evening Lenten services.

The Lenten services will begin on Wednesday, February 13th. This is early for Ash Wednesday but the date comes six weeks before Easter and Easter is set for the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring Equinox.

The time for our Lenten services was determined by a vote at our annual meeting. It was determined that we will have two services each Wednesday of Lent; the first service will begin at 4:00 pm and the second service will begin at 6:00 pm. A light supper will be served between the two services.

We are still looking for instrumentalists from our congregation to enhance our worship services. If you have such a musical talent please speak to our choir director, Stacy Vance.

Pastor will be looking at a program called Hymnsoft to see if it is compatible with our organ. This program would provide special music during our worship services.

Have you expressed your opinion of showing the WELS Connection on the wall? Could you see the projection from where you were seated? Is this a good idea for showing future WELS Connections? Let someone know from the Worship Committee.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 7th at 4:45 pm. We will be looking at Holy Week services as well as our Easter services which will be held at 7:00 am and 9:30 am. An Easter breakfast will be served between the services.

We welcome suggestions on how we can enhance our worship services. Let us know what you are thinking.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Most of the January meeting was devoted to discussion concerning the ministry plans for the coming year and preparing for the annual meeting.

Pastor reported that Open Bible was in need of an Event's Coordinator. This person would make sure that the church is well represented in the local newspaper and would make sure that all special events are

coordinated with all church groups. New members for the month included: Jim and Mary Price as well as Alan and Pam Johnson. The new church secretary is Karen Pearson and she will be working 12 hours per week. There is an occasional need for a nursery during services and this will be looked into by pastor.

Contributions for December were very good as our members showed their love of the Savior in a monetary way. At the end of the year there was a favorable balance in the checking account of over \$17,000.

Council action included:

1. Approval of the 2013 ministry budget which will be brought to the congregation.
2. The nursery idea will go forward but no funding for implementation was authorized at this time.
3. The Women of Open Bible's request to go forward with an Easter banner was accepted and a sample banner will be made and displayed to see if the congregation likes the look and the idea of using banners to enhance worship.
4. Work will continue on revising some of our by-laws to fit the needs of our growing membership.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

As we go forward in 2013 with fellowship activities for Open Bible the committee feels that such social events would be a way to introduce our church to others. So when an activity is planned we would encourage you to invite a friend or a couple to come along with you. This is a non-threatening way of getting them to Open Bible and for them to meet our wonderful members. Dennis Duessler did just that at our January activity and they seemed to enjoy our group. The road trip to Winter Park was enjoyed by the 16 that attended. The Morse Museum with the Tiffany displays was wonderful.

In February, we will be hosting (by popular demand) another of our Game Nights. This event was so successful last year and we are sure you will enjoy this one also. So mark February 23rd on your social

calendars. We will meet from 6 to 9 pm in our fellowship hall. Games will be provided but we ask that you bring your favorite game along to share with the group. We will provide water, soda and coffee. We ask those attending to provide the munchies, so bring your favorite snack to pass.

So mark your calendars, sign up starting next Sunday, think of someone you could invite, bring a snack and join us for an evening of FUN.

Still to come: River tour with lunch, Movie Night, and one Mystery event.

Don't forget about our New Member Welcome Brunch this Sunday, Feb. 3rd right after the worship service.

NATIVITY SCENE



Have you noticed the new addition to the Church?

This new Nativity Scene was suggested by Carol Yahn and several other women of the Church.

Each member of the Church Council contributed \$10.00, the church matched that amount and The Women of Open Bible paid the balance from their funds for the initial scene.

Recently an Angel was added through the donation of Ron and Diane Brutlag in memory of their son, Brent, and the lambs by Richard and Sally Langer in memory of their son, Richard, Jr.

We will be introducing a Nativity Fund in our 2013 Budget to allow three wise men and a camel to be added next year.

WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

Feb. Meeting: Ash Wednesday, February 13th at 1 pm.

The Banner Committee and the Council have worked together to have an Easter Banner and handcrafted Banner Stand for Easter this year.

The dishwasher and garbage disposal will be installed soon thanks to Walt Farnsworth and the committee who went shopping with Walt.

The ladies at their January meeting voted unanimously to keep the women's account within the church's checking account.

Feb. 3rd is our New Member Sunday Brunch Potluck. Please put names on bowls and plates. Thanks.

Look for the sign-up sheets by the kitchen pass thru for the following:

1. Wed. night light Lenten Suppers.
2. Hostesses for the Sunday Coffee Hour.
3. LWMS Spring Rally, Sat. March 9th at Crown of Glory, Orlando – Drivers are needed.

The Board is looking for candidates to run for the offices of President (2 year term) Vice-President (1 yr term) and Secretary (2 year term). The officers are asking you to prayerfully consider running for these offices. The treasurer has 1 more year on her term.

Also please consider chairing the Salad Luncheon & Fashion Show with a date set of Friday, April 12th.

Your Sister in Christ,
Marilyn Acklam, President

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

SPRING RALLY SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH

All ladies please note: You are invited to learn more about our Siberian ministry, via Skype with Ben Foxen, at a rally at Crown of Glory Church in Orlando beginning at 10 am. Check-in and coffee hour begin at 9 am. This church is easy to find, being located just off the Turnpike in the West Metro area known as Windemere. The address of the church is 2101 S. Apopka Vineland

Rd., Orlando. The registration deadline is Feb. 23rd. It would be fun if at least 4 of us could form a carpool, and even better if we could have many cars full going! For more information, call Leslie Nelson, your LWMS Reporter, at 753-2484. Even if you cannot attend, please pray for our Lutheran missionaries and their families and support their efforts through your individual mission offering. Look for a special envelope in your church mailbox.

It is not too soon to make your reservation for the LWMS National Convention to be held on June 27th through 30th in La Crosse, WI. For information, please go to their website: www.lwms.org or contact Leslie.

QUILTING LADIES

On Friday, Feb. 1st, as they do on the first Friday of every month, the Quilting Ladies will once again have a fun session cutting, assembling and sewing lap robes for those in need. Come over to church at 10 am and give it a try!

In January six more little quilts were donated to LaFaye's Guardian Angels Day Care in Ocala, where Leslie Nelson has a connection via the Guardian ad Litem program. Two of our most beautiful lap robes were given to Esther and Art Hartwig, and another one went to Judy Anderson. It is so special to be able to provide comfort for our own members by giving them something we have made with our own hands.

Three large quilts and six children's quilts were also donated to the Shepherd's LightHouse in Belleview. This is a community outreach program for women over 21 years old, with children under 10 years old. They aim to be a step in the right direction, empowering these young women to get a job, learn how to manage, and break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

We still have quite a few quilts all ready to go, so please let Ruth Niermeyer, 259-1018, know of any individuals or agencies who would like to have some.

OPEN BIBLE SHIRTS

Anyone interested in ordering an Open Bible Lutheran Shirt with the logo? Here is the place to order from:

Custom Apparel & Gifts (Shawn or Robin)
3451 Wedgewood Lane, The Villages, FL
(352) 750-1600
(Right down the street from church near Publix)

When the shirts are ready, Barb Hartshorn will pick them up (she can get a discount) and bring them to church with the cost, so you can then pay Barb.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Open Bible wishes to thank all Thrivent members for making our church their designee for their Choice Dollars. You should have been notified of your choice in case you want to reconsider; no action is needed if it remains the same.

Thrivent being a non profit organization, they chose to give you the option of designating some of the companies profits to a non profit organization of your choice.

Bill Sigurdson

WILDWOOD FOOD PANTRY



Thank you to all who donate food items to the Seeds of Hope-Wildwood Food Pantry.

Open Bible collects food for the Wildwood Food Pantry every 1st and 3rd Sunday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Bill Sigurdson - 2
Sharon Sigurdson - 12
Ardith Schmidt - 14
Dan (Doc) Blaho - 17
Gloria Butzow - 24
Marilyn Acklam - 25
Les Stauske - 27
Judy Anderson - 28
Dianne Bliss - 28
Barb Hartshorn - 28
Jeanette Kellam - 28

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Bob & Barb Matthias - 4
Herb & Doreen Schaefer - 9