



# Newsletter



**July, 2017**

**Volume 12 No. 7**

## **From the Pastor**

### **Building For Eternity**

**by Pastor Schulz**

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, after our worship services, I made an announcement about our expansion program. I told the congregation if anyone in the community asks you about our expansion program, and what we are planning to do, tell them: "We are building a Save-A-Lot store." When they give you a confused look, then say, "We are planning to Save-A-Lot more souls" in the future. That really explains what we are doing. We are providing more space, so we can have a place to gather for more ministries, where we can grow in our Christian faith, provide an area to serve and fellowship together, and provide a place for newcomers and guests to have a chance to get connected to Jesus, and be with us in heaven one day.

Our building program has been moving along smoothly. Our three renovated offices are just about finished. They put the carpeting down on June 29<sup>th</sup>. So during the July 4<sup>th</sup> week the slow process of moving back into our offices should begin to take place. Our secretary will be moving from her office in the welcome center, near the kitchen into office number 1. I will be moving from the bathroom and room off the altar area into room 2, and our counters and Mike Villemure will be moving into office 3.

All the wiring was installed in our

new fellowship hall and classrooms during the last week of June. In addition, the outside walls of the building received their final coat of stucco. Now, they have to wait about 21 days before they can put a fresh coat of paint down. The entire outside of our church will be painted so that everything matches. The skylight windows have been installed, and the roof will receive its new metal roof during the first 2 weeks of July. The air conditioning ducts have been put into place. We are waiting on the actual Carrier units to arrive sometime in July. Toward the latter portion of July, dry walling the addition will take place. It looks at this point that we will not exceed the projected amount of \$712,000. In fact your building committee is striving to keep the amount lower, if possible. Further, we have allotted \$70,000 for furnishings needed for the offices, Welcome Center, (old Fellowship hall) New Fellowship Hall, and 3 classrooms. We have raised cash to date of \$794,141.70 with commitments totally \$859,057.00. Again, the Lord has blessed us, with having a bit more than we projected that we will need, \$782,000.

If you are wondering what the \$70,000 will be used for, here is a wish list:

1. Welcome Area Furnishings (old fellowship hall)
2. Sound Looping of Church
3. Floral Case

4. Projector and Screen for Fellowship Hall & Projector for Movie Nights-outdoor-indoor
5. Sound System For Fellowship Hall
6. 2 New Computers
7. Air conditioning fix for old system
8. Tables in New Fellowship Hall
9. TV. Sets in Welcome Center & Classrooms
10. Used 4 Seat Golf Cart
11. Wiring and labor to put up projector and screen in New Fellowship Hall
12. Books For Library
13. Walled Area for Mothers & supplies in Welcome Center
14. Pastor office furniture
15. Sound panels in Fellowship Hall
16. Furnishings for Counter Room, secretary office, & Supplies for Choir Room

If you think of any other items that should be included in our wish list, please mention the items to our Building Committee chairman, Les Stauske. Wish list items will be approved by our Church Council before purchase is made. It looks like we are still on track to have everything completed by the end of September, 2017. Go Open Bible!

## **President's Message**

### **Gnosticism 101**

We are currently in a Bible study at Sola Fide, (the WELS congregation we attend here in Lawrenceville GA) on the subject of Gnosticism. A simple concept, but difficult to put ones finger on the all-encompassing meaning. This concept permeates everything around us, that is the spirit of the anti-Christ, even though many may call themselves Christians.

Gnosis is the root word from the Greek, which means knowledge, the full meaning of which is higher or greater knowledge. This heresy has plagued believers almost since the beginning of time. Remember the temptation thrown at Adam and Eve in the Garden? Gen3:4-5 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the women. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Did you catch that? Don't put your trust in God, he is not looking out for your good! When you eat of it you will be like God! You will have greater knowledge! This is central to the understanding of this spirit of the anti-Christ, (Gnosticism ) that has plagued believers to the present age. Gnosticism is not a religion or a set philosophy. It is essentially the spirit of the anti-Christ in its many forms. 1 Tim4:1-5 " The Spirit clearly says that in the later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from eating certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. " In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the bishop of Salamis, Epiphanius, showed that the gnostics who claimed to be Christian were anti-sacramental and anti-church. The new evangelicalism movement, ( nondenominational mega churches ) preach more knowledge equals being closer to "being Christ ". Look how close this is to what Satan spoke to Eve. Many of these churches do not even display a cross in their sanctuaries.

Some of the telltale signs of gnostic thinking: do not like rules, do not like marriage, into eroticism, offended by the

incarnation of Jesus, denies the death of Jesus, I am spiritual but not religious, think outside the box,( may be good saying in the business world, not in the church ), do not like labels, (nondenominational churches come to mind ). Life is a journey, the more knowledge you gain on your journey, the closer you are to God. A spiritual journey of finding yourself, age does not define us, only as young as you feel. We are spirit in a physical world and are not bound by anything.

We use the term synod, meaning walking together with Christ and fellow believers through this world. Gnosticism is syncretistic, (work out or with) work out your own path toward salvation. Again, the free spirit approach. This is inbred in our sinful hearts: it's a feeling,( feels good ) Plays on our emotions along with human reason thrown in! All I can say is to be on your guard when these types of thoughts come at you and just cling to the word of God; Ro 11:33-36 " Oh, the depth and riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgements, and his paths beyond searching out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or, who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

This only scratches the surface of this subject. Maybe this has peaked your interest and we can continue this study in the Fall or in the Spring of 2018. I'll leave you with the words of God as given through the apostle Paul; " May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Cor13:14 We miss you and pray for ya'll.

Your humble servant in our Lord Christ Jesus,

Dan Blaho

## **Mike's Corner**

### **Care-Giver Support Group**

A group has been established for members who are caregivers for loved ones and friends. Whether it is Alzheimer-Dementia, or chronic illness, all are invited to join us on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 2 pm. The meeting includes a brief devotional for encouragement and then attendees share their concerns, challenges, and lessons learned. All benefit through interaction with each other. Together we can persist through difficult times. The greatest obstacle is isolation and believing "we can handle our own challenges," alone. "No one is an island," as Donne wrote. This saying describes what we endeavor to avoid. This support is not limited to only church members, so if you know someone that needs help bring them to the meetings. In addition, if you have dealt with these issues as a caregiver please know you are more than welcome to attend; your knowledge would be beneficial to those just now going through these challenges.

Together, in Christ, we can move mountains!

God love you and keep you. Mike.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Mark or Mike Villemure at (352-693-5380), or email Mike at [mvillemure@tyndale.edu](mailto:mvillemure@tyndale.edu)

## National Music and Worship Convention

The National Conference on Worship, Music and the Arts (WELS) was full of inspiring ideas for meaningful worship at Open Bible. The seven worship services provided variations on hymns, liturgy, prayers, preludes and postludes. The services were Festival Concert, Reformation, Confession and Absolution, All Saints, Ascension, and Pentecost. Much was lifted up to our God and Savior in prayer and worship.

In addition, there were presentations that provided many sample octavos for our choir and ensembles. Organ literature was demonstrated and available for purchase in the vendors' hall. I took advantage of purchasing several albums.

Stacy Vance and I roomed together in one of the Carthage College dorms. Of course, cafeteria food and much walking took some getting used to. The two of us also sang in one of the choirs. We sang during the All Saints' Worship service. Stacy also played her flute in the Closing Service Orchestra.

The Baroque Shantz pipe organ lended glorious music to all services. There are no pistons (presets) on the organ. So two helpers stood on each side of the organist to pull the stops at the appropriate time. The preservice music was enjoyed by all as we sat quietly preparing our hearts for worship (a practice that I would like to see at OBL).

I attended a hymnal project meeting. Volumes under consideration are pew edition hymnals, large print editions, hymn/liturgy/Psalms accompaniments, a Psalter pew edition (with all 150 Psalms in various settings) and several more

hymnal related books. The pew editions are projected to be out for Advent 2021.

A heartfelt thanks to Open Bible for sending me to the conference. It was truly a blessing and beneficial toward enriching our own worship services.

Judy Hainen,  
Music Director

## Small Group Ministry

### The following small groups will meet again in the Fall:

North Country Group  
Facilitator: Alan Johnson

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study  
Led by Pam Johnson

Game Nights  
Facilitator: Carol Yahn

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork  
Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski

LIFT (Ladies in Faith Together)  
Facilitator: Genie Selvey

Journey With Jesus  
Led by Judy Hainen

The Defenders  
Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Ken Wells

Men at Leisure: Men's Breakfast Group  
Led by: Dennis Duessler

WinGS: Women in God's Service  
Led by: Jane Valley

**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.

**SPLASH**  
**Single People Loving and**  
**Serving Him**  
**Led by Mike Villemure**  
**Facilitated by: Peggi Carrier,**  
**Ina Taylor**

The next SPLASH Bible study is on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. The Topic: Our God of Politics. After the study we will have a social. ALL ARE WELCOME to attend. In the meantime feel free to contact Peggi, Ina or Mike.

**LWMS News**

The 54<sup>th</sup> annual LWMS National Convention was held in Orlando, Florida on Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup> thru Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. If any of our ladies attended, we would like some feed-back on your experience. Please see our secretary, Karen Pearson.



**Did You Know?**

**Coffee Host/Hostesses:** Please sign-up to help with the coffee/fellowship hour. We are in need of men and women for July 16<sup>th</sup> – October 8<sup>th</sup>. You can pick which weeks work best for you. The sign-up sheet is located in the Kitchen pass-thru. Thank you.

**Can Collection:** Bring your "crushed" & "rinsed" cans to church on the 1<sup>st</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 WinGS – Women in God's Service.

**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 2017 Flower Calendar** has been placed on the door at the back of the fellowship hall. Again 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.

**Happy**  
**Anniversary**

- Dave & Nancy Gonja – 3
- Del & Linda Draeger – 6
- Joe & Paula Malec – 11
- Dick & Barb Chapman – 18
- Richard & Mary Lou Mason - 18
- Dave & Kim Mottl – 20
- Shane & Adrianna Thise – 21
- Dan & Joan Blaho - 22



# Happy Birthday

Kim Mottl - 27  
Richard Tess - 27

Genie Selvey - 1  
Craig Marshall - 1  
Ingeborg Holzmann - 2  
Renda Mackey - 4  
Angela Spengler - 4  
Lois Klatt - 4  
Carolyn Duncan - 5  
Joanie Musiel - 6  
Sally Stocks - 6  
Jeff Yonce - 26



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***“Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known”***  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)  
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Please join “The Voice of Open Bible” Sunday’s  
11:00 – 11:30am on 89.5 FM (The Boulevard)



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