



Newsletter



July 2018

Volume 13 No. 7

From the Pastor by Pastor Mark Schulz

A Lesson For The Worrier Matthew 6:27,34

You can't change the past, but you can ruin a perfectly good present by worrying about tomorrow. And how many of us haven't let worry ruin a perfectly good day?

Worry brings about results. It brings about ulcers, nervousness, headaches, temper flare-ups and sleepless nights, to name a few. It makes us miserable and unhappy. It creates problems rather than solves them.

Christ teaches us that no one has ever added years to his life by worrying about it. And no one ever will. How foolish, then, to worry! How useless to be anxious!

But how we forget! In our sinfulness we find all kinds of things to worry about. Worry is a sin, and it reveals a lack of trust in God and his providence. A worrying Christian on the one hand acknowledges God's almighty power, but on the other is saying, "I am not so sure you have everything under control, Lord."

We must never forget that God is constant. He doesn't vary. He isn't fickle. He doesn't forget about us, or shortchange us on his blessings. He takes complete care of our lives, every detail and every moment. Worry won't remove sickness, put food on the table, pay bills or solve problems. But God will.

He graciously invites us to come to him in prayer and give him all our cares, worries, anxieties, troubles.

Give them to God. Let him take care of them. There is no need to lose sleep at night. There is no need to get ulcers or lead a miserable existence of fretting and anxiety. God is in control.

Our lives can get pretty hectic and complex, and we may feel we are at the end of our rope. How wonderful to be able to pour out our hearts to God with complete trust in him to take charge and do what's best! Worrying is a sin. Let us give our concerns to God, in prayer.

President's Message

Hurricane season is upon us once again and a number of storms are predicted. Everyone has already been encouraged to prepare themselves and their homes for whatever is to come our way. We need to look no further than last season when hurricane Irma unleashed its fury on north central Florida, as well as throughout the state. It was by the grace of God that many of us living in the Villages were spared Irma's wrath. I'm sure that God heard many of our prayers seeking protection from what could have been a very disastrous situation.

A disaster, on a much greater scale, took place a relatively short time after creation when God became extremely angry with all the evil that existed in this world. In the story of

Noah and the Ark, God called upon one of the few righteous people of this time who remained faithful to the Lord. Genesis Chapter 5 vs. 8 tells us that "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord". In verse 9 he tells us that "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations and Noah walked with God".

It must have taken a tremendous amount of courage and faith for Noah and his family to follow God's instructions to build the Ark and welcome two of every animal species that inhabited the earth. They then waited patiently for Him to complete His plan for cleansing the earth of evil. Much can be learned from Noah's faith and trust in the Lord.

On a lighter note, ponder for a moment, on the following rather unique perspective of Noah's story.

"Noah's Ark: Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark"

- 1) Don't miss the boat.
- 2) Remember that we are all in the same boat!
- 3) Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4) Stay fit. When you're 80 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5) Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6) Build your future on high ground.
- 7) For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- 8) Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9) When you're stressed, float awhile.
- 10) Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

11) No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.

When life seems to make various difficult demands on us, don't lose heart. We can always draw strength from God. We can entrust our cares to Him, do all we can, and let Him amaze us with what He can do with our situation. Noah did and you know the results.

Likewise, Jesus invites each of us to trust Him in our own storms. He miraculously controls the wind and the rain. He's always there to steady our hearts. In our seemingly endless moments of struggle, His unfailing love will carry us. We can rejoice in His Salvation.

All God's Blessings,

Greg Wendorf

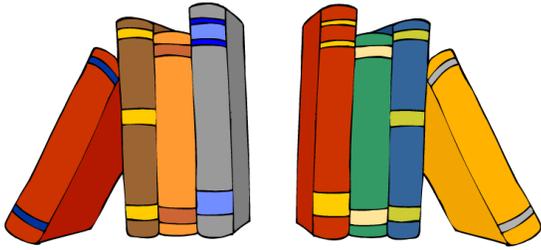
Radio Ministry



We continue with our Radio Ministry on Sunday's at 103.5 "The Shepherd." Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am.



Be sure to enjoy your summer!



Open Bible Library

It looks like we have the new library up and running. Check out procedures will be pretty simple. Find a book you are interested in, sign your name, phone number and date on the card, remove it and put it in the box on the shelf labeled "Library Cards." When you are finished return the book to the basket marked for returns. They will be returned to the shelf by the library volunteers. If you have questions, please contact Peggi Carrier. Her phone number is 906-753-4930.

Bible Stumper Question of the Month:

What did overseers and deacons do in the early church?

An overseer (the word elder is also used in Scripture; today we more often use the word pastor) led the local congregation. His duties included teaching, preaching, and shepherding. God set very high standards of conduct and character for this position. Paul indicated (I Timothy 3:1) that to aspire to such a position was good. A deacon was, literally, "one who serves." Chosen for spiritual maturity and honesty, the deacon tended to practical tasks such as supplying the needs of the poor, the widows, and the ill within the congregation and collecting and dispersing the congregation's finances.

FELLOW MEMBERS OF OPEN BIBLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

On June 12 -14, 2018, I had the opportunity to attend the South Atlantic District Convention at Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs with Pastor Schulz. I have attended some of these in past years and have always enjoyed the opportunity to hear and share God's Word. It also gave me the opportunity to spend time with other WELS Pastors and friends that I know. The South Atlantic District did an excellent job of planning for this convention.

As usual, there were some items on our agenda that caused me consternation and others that I was extremely pleased in WELS efforts. Pastor Schulz and I were assigned to the Missions Committee. This included both stateside and worldwide.

As I mentioned, there were some worries as I read the 2018 Report to the Twelve Districts. A study was conducted and presented at the 2017 synod convention. "The study demonstrated that if current statistical trends in WELS continue, within two decades WELS would lose approximately 73,000 members and 300 congregations." WELS is being pro-active in attempting to address these losses by merging smaller congregations when feasible and by setting a goal of "opening the front door" (adding new members through outreach) and "shutting the back door" (preventing members from leaving their congregation and synod). The loss of membership is not unique to WELS, as most Christian Churches are experiencing losses in membership. The question that remains unanswered is – Why is there the loss of membership in Christian Churches?

There appears to be no easy answer and no prevailing answer that address these losses. As Christians, we know that God has a reason and answer for all our questions. We must trust that he will protect His Church and provide for our spiritual needs no matter the hardships that face His Church.

I was well pleased that even during these times when WELS must face these issues, Our Synod goes forth with an ambitious plan to expand our mission work both at home and in other countries. At the April 12th & 13th meeting of the Board of Home Missions (BHM), 14 missions were approved in the United States. 7 are for new missions and 7 are for enhancements to existing ministries. A six year goal was established to implement 50 new quality missions and ministry starts and fully optimize campus ministry.

Our current world missions have:

- A partnership with Churches in 50 different nations
- Is in fellowship with 105,465 Lutherans around the world
- Serves 75,000 baptized members
- Has 44 missionaries in the field

Our world mission work in the Apache Nations and the Republic of Vietnam are producing outstanding results. The Communist government in Vietnam is allowing us to train leaders in the 100,000-member Hmong Fellowship Church of Vietnam. We are celebrating 125 years of missionary work in the Apache nations reaching out to over 3,000 souls.

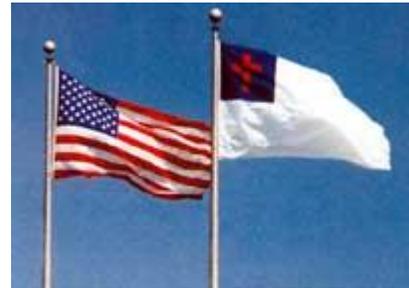
Even though we face some daunting issues, we will continue to carry out God's Work for we are confident that God will provide.

Thank you for allowing me to share this with you.

Jeff Yonce

Special Service on July 1st

During our 9:30am Worship Service on Sunday, July 1st, we will have a Patriotic Service. We are asking all our veterans in attendance to meet in the fellowship hall prior to the start of the service to march in with the US flag and the Christian flag to the front of the church. This is strictly a volunteer activity. Once the flags are in place the congregation will recite the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Pledge to the Christian flag. Both of the pledges will be printed in the service bulletin.



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Small Group Ministry

The following groups will start up again in the Fall:

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork

Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd Friday, in September, 9:00 – noon.

Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen

Journey with Jesus Bible Study will meet again in September.

Men of Leisure—Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler
This month the meeting will be on a Friday at 8:30am. Meeting will be at the Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466.

WinGS: Women in God's Service
Led by: Jane Valley
The WinGS Womens group meets the second Wednesday of each month September thru May at 1:00pm.

SPLASH: Single People Loving and Serving Him, Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale

North Country Group
Facilitator: Alan Johnson
This Bible Study will be on Sundays, from 6:00 – 8:00pm. This group usually meets at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. They will resume in the fall.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study
Led by Pam Johnson
The Ladies Bible Study will meet again in the fall.

466A Group Bible Study: The group is led by Pastor Rodger Dale. The group will meet again in the fall.

Saturday Duffers Golfing outside The Villages. Join a group of golfers at different Golf courses on Saturdays. This group will start up again in mid-October. If interested, please contact Joe Malec: 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. Leslie will be back in the fall to resume as coordinator.

The following groups will still have activities during the summer:

The Defenders

Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Jim Johnson
The Defenders will meet Thursday, July 26th. 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. We will have a game night on Friday, July 20th from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Please bring a snack to pass, your favorite game to play and friends to share the evening with.

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONVENTION

Our South Atlantic District Convention met in Palm Harbor at the Innisbrook Resort from June 12th-14th. Jeff Yonce and Pastor Schulz attended from Open Bible. They were updated on various ministries of our church body. God has led us to a simple way to share the Gospel online in Spanish.

Over one million people now receive a daily update in their Facebook feed that highlights a Gospel gem. This connects them to a website where over 2 million individuals have downloaded our Spanish resources. These connections have led us to partner with leaders in several new countries. Exploratory trips have been taken to Argentina, Ecuador, Venezuela, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Paraguay where national leaders are now at work sharing the truth with people starved for true grace. Another bright spot in our world outreach is to Vietnam. The communist government in Hanoi would like us to build a training center, where church leaders could be trained to serve in the 100,000-member Hmong Fellowship Church. Apparently, the government is pleased with how the people are more filled with peace since they have connected with Christianity. WELS is the only protestant church body allowed to build such a training center. We are looking to send visiting professors to Vietnam, to lead in the studies, if and when this training center is built. The cost is projected at \$500,000. What an amazing opportunity has been given to us.

The new hymnal should be completed by Advent of 2021. It will contain 475 familiar hymns from the past as well as 175 new hymns. All of the Psalms will be included with 2-6 different variables for each Psalm. There will be 3 new communion services. Pastor Schulz and Jeff were impressed with the worship services at conference where musicians made use of guitars, flutes, violins, pianos, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, and a baritone.

Our Church Mission offerings have remained flat for the past 10 years. As we desire to reach new mission fields, and as inflation increases, we need to seriously consider raising our church mission offerings each year. Our Synod recommends that we look to increase our CMO by at least 3 percent a year. At Open Bible we have really worked to increase our CMO. In 2012 it was around \$8000.00 a year, and in 2018 it is \$32,400. Usually, you try to figure that 10 percent of your budget should be geared toward CMO. Presently, that is where we are at with our CMO at Open Bible. May God continue to bless the hearts of Open Bible with generous giving so that more souls might have an opportunity to learn about Jesus.

One of the newer strategies in our Synod for outreach is to consider a multi-site mission. I feel this concept has great potential at Open Bible. A National Multi-site conference is being planned from November 12-14th in Pewaukee, Wisconsin to share information on how to start and maintain a multi-site ministry. Perhaps, Pastor Schulz could attend this workshop to gain some expertise in this area.

Why Go to Church?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time, I have heard something like 3,00 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my

time, and the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letter to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Did You Know?



Can Collection: Bring your "crushed" & "rinsed" cans to church on the 1st & 3rd 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 1st 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!

Happy Anniversary

Dave & Nancy Gonias – 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

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
Alan Koch - 22
Jeff Yonce - 26
Kim Mottl - 27
Richard Tess - 27



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



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.)



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