



Newsletter

HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!

June 2019

Volume 14 No. 6

From the Pastor "Bring Your Friends To Jesus"

Mark 2:1-5

by Pastor Mark Schulz

This is one of my most favorite stories in all the Bible. Every time I read it, I can visualize the event. In my mind I can see the mass of people crowded into the small house. I can look into their faces and see their eyes glued upon Jesus. I can sense the contrast between their silence and His voice. I can visualize the four men approaching the crowd and begging for an entrance, yet finding no one who was willing to give up their spot. Then I can hear one of the four men suggesting that they go up on the roof and let their friend down by ropes, and then the others telling him that he was crazy. I can visualize the frightened look in the paralyzed man's face as he put all of his dependence in them. I can hear the sound of the roof as it was being torn away and I can see the particles of dust and debris falling upon the people. Finally, my attention is turned to Jesus and I see Him smile and perhaps even laugh as He realized what they were doing. It was quite a moment that no one there that day ever forgot. Even two thousand years later we can still mesmerize a group of rambunctious children as we tell them this story.

It's a fun story, but it's also an important story for it teaches us the importance of bringing people to meet Jesus. As believers, we're a lot like the four friends. We must find a way to bring our friends to Jesus. Sometimes it's easy to get someone to come to church with

us. Sometimes it takes a lot of creativity and hard work. Yet it's worth it all if our friend hears the Gospel, and connects in a real relationship with Jesus Christ. **Mark 2:5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."** I marvel at the fact that Jesus responded to 'their' faith. I'm not sure if the plural pronoun includes the paralyzed man himself, or just his friends. One thing is sure, the plural pronoun includes the friends. Jesus was impressed with 'their' faith.

We know that our faith can't save another person. Each person is responsible for themselves before God. However, their faith sometimes begins with our faith. We must first have the faith to believe that they can be brought to faith if they hear the truth. We must have the faith that God can use us to help bring them to Christ. We have to be determined like the four friends of the paralytic, that nothing is going to stop us from getting our paralyzed friend to Jesus.

Sunday is only a couple of days away and a whole new opportunity to help bring someone to Jesus. It may be as simple as inviting them to church. It may take a little more effort on our part such as first building a relationship with them. Whatever it takes, it will be worth it if they are brought to faith in Christ. Remember, loving persistence over time wins the unbeliever. Don't be discouraged with being turned down a few times. In God's time, the right opportunity will present itself for you. So then, bring Your Friends to meet Jesus at Open Bible!

President's Message

On the first Sunday in May the theme of our service was "The Power of the Risen Christ"! Throughout biblical history we have been blessed to witness the awesome power of our God. It's very easy to take for granted or fail to fully appreciate the magnitude of some of the great deeds that God has done for mankind. So, let's take a brief moment to reflect on a few of the great miracles God has performed.

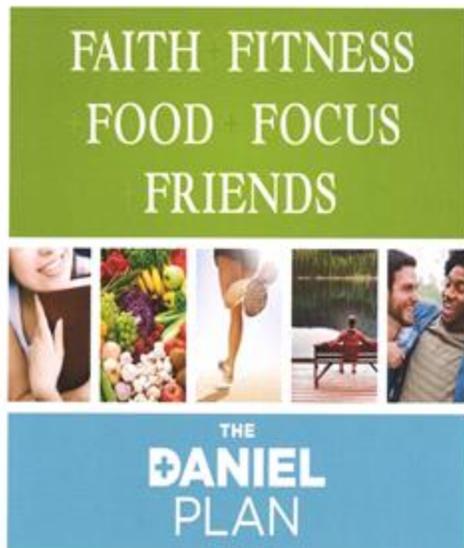
We can all think of the stories of God restoring sight to the blind or healing the sick and bringing people back from the dead just to name a few. But it's the larger miracles that really catch our attention. One of these was the feeding of the five thousand men plus women and children which probably makes that total number feed closer to 10,000 people or more with two small fish and five loafs of bread. As amazing as that was, when all was said and done the disciples were able to gather up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

But believe it or not, that doesn't really compare to the facts and story of Moses leading the children of Israel out of captivity in Egypt and into the Promised Land. I always suspected the numbers were rather large, but I never realized that we are talking about two to three million people plus livestock and personal belongings.

Soon after allowing the Israelites to leave, Pharaoh had a change of heart and sent his army of 600 chariots and warriors to bring them back. You can imagine the concern and anxiety the children of Israel must have had as they realized that Pharaoh's army was in hot

pursuit. Besides the enemy behind them, they had to find a way to cross the Red Sea in front of them. Getting all those people across the Red Sea at night was going to be no easy task. If the path were rather small, it would take the Israelites walking double file, thirty-five days and nights to cross and the line would have been about 800 miles long. But again, God stepped in and showed His mighty power and made the impossible possible. He parted the Sea and created a path that was three miles wide allowing them to walk 5,000 abreast and get over in one night. After everyone was safely on the other side God allowed the Egyptian army to enter the path until all were in and then brought the Sea walls back together again destroying the entire Egyptian army and chariots. Moses believed in God and God took care of these problems and many more for him. But truly the most awesome of all God's deeds was when He sent his one and only son into this world to assume our human nature. He lived a perfect life on behalf of all mankind. He took upon himself the sins of all people of all time and endured God's wrath in our stead so that we might be saved eternally. God's love is always with us, His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares, you know He will see us through. Our God is an Awesome God!!

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf



The Daniel Plan 40 Days to a Healthier Life

This six-session video based small group study is centered on five essentials that will launch your journey to health: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. God designed your body to be healthy and he provided everything you need to thrive and live an abundant life. The Daniel Plan small group study teaches simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your daily lifestyle. As Pastor of Open Bible Lutheran Church, I need to lose about 40 pounds to get my body back where it should be as the temple of the Holy Spirit. I have tried Weightwatchers, Atkins, and other plans, but all have eventually failed. Why I am leading this study? My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I need a lifestyle plan for health that incorporates God's Word. Anyone is welcome to join us for these studies, whether you are overweight or not.

Wednesday Nights: 7:00 P.M. for 7 weeks

May 1st: Guidelines of Group, Overview of Program, Distribution of Student Study Guides

June 5th: Friends: Encouraging Each Other

June 12th: Living the Lifestyle

The Daniel Plan will continue to meet during the summer months to keep the motivation up!



LWMS 56th Annual Convention



If you've never been to an Annual LWMS Convention you might consider attending this year. It will be in Des Moines, Iowa. Here is a sample of the speakers scheduled for Friday and Saturday:

Friday speakers include:

Joel Sutton, Latin America Missions Team
Rev. Jonathan Bauer, Good News Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin
Rev. Keith Free, Administrator, Home Missions
Rob Siirila, Hong Kong

Saturday speakers include:

Rev. Pheng Moua, Immanuel Hmong Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Schlomer, Administrator, World Missions
Paul Nitz, Malawi, Africa

There are 5 workshops beginning Friday and ending on Saturday.

Here are some of the options:

1.) Supporting Our Home and World Missionaries - Mr. Sean and Mrs. Kirsten Young - Director of Mission Operations, WELS Center for Mission and Ministry

2.) Steppin Out of My Comfort Zone - Mrs. Anita S. - Mission Counselor in East Asia

3.) Walking Together in the Great Commission - Mr. Shannon Bohme - WELS Mission Journeys Coordinator

4.) Moments with Our Missionary Wives - Mrs. Susan Nitz, Africa; Mrs. Judy Siirila, East Asia; Mrs. Lindsey Bauer, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

5.) God's Grace Reaching Vietnam - Rev. Bounkeo Lor - Hmong Asia Ministry Coordinator; Rev. Jonathon Bare - International Recruitment Director, Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI)

If you need more information here is the link to the LWMS website:

https://www.lwms.org/site/default.asp?sec_id=180014747

Peggi Carrier, LWMS Reporter

Special Cleaning Day Let's make the Church Shine!

Please join us in a special day to make the church sparkle! There is a sign-up

sheet if you can join us on Monday, June 17th. Meet at church at 8:30am. Walt Farnsworth will have a list of things that need ****Sparkle!****

Emergency Contact Information

Open Bible can add an emergency contact person's information to your file. Please indicate the person's Name, Relationship to you, their phone number and the state/country that they live in.

Please give this to our church secretary, Karen Pearson and she will add it to your file. You never know when this will come in handy.

Two Books of Interest

"The Alzheimer's Prevention Program" by Gary Small, M.D. and Gigi Vorgan. The authors show from studies that exercise and diet are just as important for brain health as for heart health. The book is also practical, offering suggestions for brain nutrition as well as ways to strengthen memory and sharpen your mind.

The other book "Mayo Clinic on Alzheimer's Disease" is a guide to understanding, treating, coping and caregiving.

Both books were supplied by the Tharps and can be found in the secretary's office.

Men of Leisure

Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler



Meeting on Friday,
June 14th 8:30 am.
Meeting place will be Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466 near Buena Vista.

Women of Open Bible

All women are invited to join the WinGS group on Friday, June 21st for lunch at Gio's Deli. Located on the west side on CR301 and just north of CR466. A sign-up sheet is located on the counter. Please sign-up so we can give them a count. It should be a BLAST!

Small Group Ministry

The following groups will meet in the fall:

466A Group Bible Study

Led by Pastor Rodger Dale

Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson

Saturday Duffers Golfing

Coordinator: Joe Malec

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork

Led by: Sandy Pawlowski

The Defenders

Led by: Bill Sigurdson

WinGS: Women in God's Service

Led by: Jane Valley

SPLASH: Single People Loving and Serving Him

Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale

BOB Breakfast: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
The group coordinator is Richard Raine.

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson

Fellowship Group

Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson,
Joe & Paula Malec.

Choir: Music Director is Judy Hainen.



The Following groups continue during the summer:

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.

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 Doug

Tharp. Please contact him if you are interested in joining.

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 Worship services. Contact Joe Malec.

Grief Share: 13 week video-based small group to help those who have lost a loved one in death. Meets when the need arises.

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 car parked out in front of church. Thank you from the Women of Open Bible (WinGS.)

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 2019 Flower Calendar has been placed 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.

Memory Garden Progress:

Sample Granite Stones 9.5” x 6”



If you are interested in purchasing a granite stone for the memory garden, please contact Karen Pearson, Church Secretary for a form or one is located by the Sanctuary doors. The cost will be \$50.00 per granite stone. There are a variety of different colors.





Happy Anniversary

- Alan & Pam Johnson – 1
- Gene & Bette McConkey – 3
- John and Janis Liermann – 5
- Frank & Genie Selvey – 7
- Greg & Carol Wendorf – 7
- LeRoy & Jane Valley - 7
- Jerry & Mary Brooks – 10
- Ken & Elisabeth Wells – 15
- Tom & Betty DeWitz – 18
- Larry & Ardyce Fronk – 20
- Fred & Judy Hainen – 20
- Ken & Brenda Severa – 20
- Dan & Karen Pearson – 25
- Walt & Bonnie Farnsworth – 25
- Ray & Norma Welch – 28
- Bob & Carol Hinz – 29



Happy Birthday

- June Murray – 1
- Elvin Schlegel – 3
- LeRoy Valley - 4
- Maya Ute Mitta – 4
- Pat Holmes – 5
- Gerry Hughes - 5
- Joanne Stuedemann – 7
- Jane Valley - 8
- Jeanne Schulz – 9
- Brenda Severa – 11
- Mary Whitford – 11
- Carol Stauske – 12
- Ruth Niermeyer – 13
- Ken Wells – 13
- Elizabeth Koch - 15
- Donna Davis - 17
- Jennifer Schlegel – 19
- Frank Selvey – 21
- Sandy Richesson - 23
- John Kiewra – 25
- Ardyce Fronk – 27
- Mary Brooks – 29
- Ted Hahm – 29
- Norma Welch – 29

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“Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known”
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com



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



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