



Newsletter



January 2020

Volume 15 No. 1

From the Pastor by Pastor Mark Schulz

When I was at the Seminary, I was once told by a professor that older people do not like change. They like things to be the way they have always been. In fact, if you make any changes, some people will get upset with you. This is true in my own life. For 20 years already, the modern Lord's Prayer has been used in our churches. At Open Bible we use it once or twice a month. But I still have a hard time abandoning the old Lord's Prayer. It is what I grew up with, it is what I have recited since I was a child. However, the wording of the new Lord's prayer does not compromise the original Greek from which it was translated. In fact, the new Lord's prayer is easier to understand. We need to finally make the change and use it every week. We get visitors from up North who say, "you still use the old Lord's Prayer?"

As your pastor, I never want to do things that get people upset. So much more can be done for furthering Christ's church if we live and serve in harmony. The devil is always looking for ways to turn over the apple cart. Knowing this, I try to introduce new ideas that will involve change gradually. Rest assured these changes will only be in the area of adiaphora, (things neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture). We will never change the truths of what God's Word teaches.

The year 2020 is going to be a year of excitement with some change in the way we do things. If we can pay off our \$280,000 mortgage within the first 6 months of 2020, we will be able to call a much-needed part-time Staff Minister of Music and Education. The staff minister would oversee our music and small group ministry, particularly the area of teaching at the independent living homes around us. That staff minister would be an incredible blessing to Open Bible. Plus, we would be completely debt free.

In January 2020, we will have new LED Lights installed at the front of church which will help our choir and handbells to see better when they sing or play their bells. They will also match in color and be re-positioned. This will be a positive change. In addition, on January 13th and 14th, we will have a projection system installed in our worship sanctuary. As many of you recall, we did have a screen at the front of church, when the church was built. It was placed in the wrong location, right above the crucified Savior, and because of attic heat, became plasticized (melted), and did not operate properly. It also covered the Savior to his knees! We will now replace that screen with two 8'-9' screens above the doors on either side of the crucified Savior. I realize that some of you will not be happy with this change. The look at the front of our church will be different than you are used to. But this change will be positive for the future in our call to reach souls. It will allow us to follow along in our worship service and singing without looking down at our bulletins. It will allow the pastor to make points of

emphasis by graphics and text in the sermon. The Scripture readings will be on the screen. It will allow us to have a second service where modern Christian music can be played, text presented, and short video clips shown. It will allow us to show our monthly WELS connection video, without having to roll a projector down the aisle on a cart and set up a heavy portable screen. Please just give it some time, and you will see the blessings that technology can bring to worship.

I want everyone in this congregation to know, I care about each one of you deeply. My only goal in life is to have your faith strengthened through the Word of God, and to reach as many souls as possible for Jesus, that they may be in heaven with us one day. My life is totally focused on this. Please continue to be the happy and wonderful congregation you are. It is such a blessing to be your pastor.

President's Message

The clock struck midnight, and everyone still awake shouted "Happy New Year". A brief discussion followed concerning New Year's resolutions. While many people make them, I personally don't because I'm usually not very good at keeping them. If you are one who makes a sincere resolution each year, I wish you great success. One thing I have learned as I grow older is that as our burdens in life change, our perspectives must also change. I recently came across the following list of lighthearted suggestions to improve our attitudes about life's burdens.

- Just accept that, some days you're the pigeon: and some days, you're the statue.

- Always keep your words soft and sweet - just in case you have to eat them.
- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be "recalled" by their maker.
- When everything's coming your way, you're probably in the wrong lane.
- If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to be kind to others.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

We can learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors; but they all have to live in the same box. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

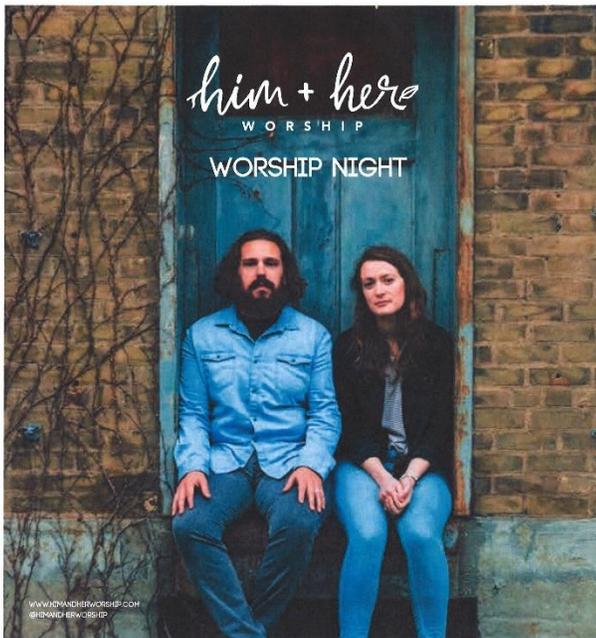
Don't let the events of life dictate your level of joy. It is the joy of the Lord that gives you strength. Be joyful that you are going to heaven. Be grateful that you have someone who always loves you, no matter what. Concentrate on what you do have, not what you don't have. Our attitudes do make all the difference in the world. God's blessings for a wonderful new year.

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

January Concert

We will have a special couple perform on Saturday, January 4th at 4:00 pm. The husband and wife team is Him + Her

I'm sure this will be a meaningful evening for all. Sign-up sheets and invitations (business card size) will be available Sunday on the Welcome Center table. Please invite your friends and family to join us. A free-will offering will be collected.



BEACON
YOUR STORY | HIS GOODNESS

OPEN BIBLE LUTHERAN
4671 BELLWETHER LANE
OXFORD, FL

JANUARY 4TH
4:00 PM

Council Activities

The Church Council met on December 19th, 2019.

Items discussed included:

Implementation of the Long Range Planning Committee's Report.

- (1) Place an Opportunity to Help Reduce the Mortgage Form in each member mailbox
- (2) Use a thermometer to communicate the giving progress.

New screens and projectors will be installed in the Sanctuary on Monday and Tuesday January 13th and 14th.

Adjustments were discussed to handle organ, and choir performances due to the injury to Judy Hainen, Music Director.

Mornings with Mommy children gifts have been secured and will be included in Christmas activities.

The Insurance claim due to the lightning strike has now been closed and we have been reimbursed for all losses less the \$1,000.00 deductible.

An Annual contract was approved to maintain our seven air conditioning units with Patrick's Heating and Air Conditioning of Ocala for \$1,050.00.

A housekeeper was selected to provide 3 hours of cleaning services each week for \$45.00 to be paid monthly.

Final adjustments were made to the 2020 Church Budget which will be presented to the Congregation Voter's Assembly on January 26, 2020 at 11:00 am.

Yours in Christ:

Les Stauske
Secretary

“Serving the Savior” This Month

This month we would like to acknowledge a very special person. Charles Schenk has only been a member for a short time, and he has “Served his Savior” faithfully. Charles has served as a golf cart driver. He really enjoys picking up people at the independent living facilities that are surrounding the church. The places he drives to are Buffalo Crossing, Carriage House and occasionally The Willows.

Charles and his wife Sharon loved attending the Saturday Blended Worship Service. He and Sharon love the more contemporary worship songs. He also attended “The Daniel Plan” and was an inspiration to all.

Charles would love to continue serving but he is limited for health reasons. We are asking for prayers for him so he can continue to Serve his Savior. Charles, thank you for all you do for Open Bible church.

Small Group Ministry

Wednesday in the Word:

Led by Pastor Mark Schulz

Feasts of The Bible

Discover the Jewish Roots of Christianity Throughout the Old Testament, God commanded the children of Israel to observe his holy days to remember the mighty things that he had done in the lives of Israel's forefathers. The Feasts of the Bible is a quick overview and summary that celebrates and explains the meanings behind the different feasts and why they are important to God. It reveals how each holiday points to Jesus as the promised Messiah.

January 8th- Passover and Unleavened Bread

January 15th- Firstfruits and Pentecost

January 22nd- Feast of Trumpets

January 29th- Day of Atonement

466A Group Bible Study

Led by Pastor Rodger Dale

This is a group especially for those who live around the area of 466A. It is held in homes of participants the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2:00 pm. January 14th 2:00 pm will be hosted by Barbara Cain-Smith for a study of Acts 13 and 14 “To the Ends of the Earth.” January 28th the hosts will be Jim and Sandy Fehlhaber. The Bible Study will be on Acts 15 & 16 “Controversy and Expansion.”

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson.



Meets on Sundays
at 11:00 am.

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork

Led by: Sandy Pawlowski



Meets on the third
Friday of the month
from 9:00 am – Noon.
Next meeting will be
January 17th

This group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also, many will bring their knitting, crochet, and embroidery to work on. So, if you have any craft project you are working on, please come and enjoy the fellowship.

WinGS:

Women in God's Service



WINGS
WOMEN IN GODS SERVICE

Led by: Genie Selvey
WinGS will have their next monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of the month (January 8th.)

SPLASH: *Single People Loving and Serving Him*

Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale



is an organization for singles. We have a Bible Study and brief meeting the second Monday each month. We will be studying favorite Psalms, continuing with Psalm 2 on December 9, 11:30 am. Meet at Carabba's restaurant for lunch. Then the group is invited to the home of Pastor and Connie Dale for a Bible study of Psalm 2.

BOB Breakfast: Band of Brothers:



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study The group coordinator is Richard Raine and Pastor Rodger Dale. Next Bible Study will be Saturday January 4th

at 8:30am. A breakfast Bible Study for men meeting the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 am.

Contact person: Richard Raine, 352-753-6151 or Pastor Dale, 352-901-1162. Get to know other men of Open Bible. Learn how God wants men to lead in their family, church and community. Sign up at the counter next to the fellowship hall.

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

Continues Sunday, January 12th & 26th at 6:00 pm at Alan & Pam

Johnson's home in Ocala.

Continuing with Battles of the Bible. All are welcome to join, contact Alan Johnson if interested.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson

Continues on Tuesdays, January 7th through January 2:00 pm at Open Bible.

Topic: Come to the Soul Spa! Have you ever longed to go to a place where you could forget about your day-to day problems for a while? Be pampered with facials and manicures? Where therapists would massage the stress out of your knotted muscles? We will be visiting a different kind of spa – A Soul Spa. We will discover meaningful ways to connect with God and focus on His constant and merciful presence in your life. In the Soul Spa, God will take your weary soul, and give it a new life.

Men of Leisure:

Led by:Dennis Duessler



First meeting will be Friday, January 10th, 8:30 am at Bob Evans on CR466. Topic: Minutes with the Messiah

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.

Game Day!

Save the date. **Friday, January 3rd** from 1:00 – 4:00pm. There will be a Game Day. Bring your friends, a snack to pass and your favorite game to play and we will enjoy fellowship and games. (This is a new time we are trying to see if an afternoon would be better than evening.) Facilitators: Carol Yahn, Sandy Pawlowski.

Hand and Foot Anyone?

Every third Friday of the month, from 1:00 - 4:00pm, come and join a group of people to play the game of Hand & Foot.

Bring a snack to pass if you'd like. Next day is **Friday, January 17th !**

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.



Choir: Music Director is Judy Hainen. Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm. (following the Wednesday in the Word Bible Study) Begins January 8th.



Caring for Caregivers May Be for You

Is caring for Caregivers for you or someone you know?

Most people focus on the person receiving care. Their prayers are for the person who is ill, injured, etc., but it is often the caregiver who has the greater burden. Caregivers need prayers and support too.

Caring for Caregivers is a support group at Open Bible. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm, next meeting Feb 6th and everyone is invited. No meeting in January.

Do you know a caregiver who could benefit from this sharing, learning experience?

On February 6th at 2:00 pm Gloria Ebey will speak about Vitas Hospice and other helpful information. All past, and potential caregivers are welcome. Invite other caregivers to be your guest.

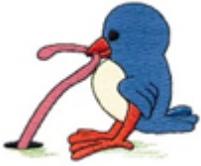
Pastor Dale, facilitator

New Life in Christ

New Life in Christ Bible Study, Led By Pastor Schulz: Will begin meeting on Tuesdays, for 7 weeks beginning on January 7th from 3:00 – 4:30 pm. This is a class for people interested in becoming a member and a good refresher course for members. It is a wonderful review of the basic teachings of Scripture.

Early Bird Bible Study:

Led by Pastor Mark Schulz
Sundays from 8:00 – 8:50 am.



“Jesus’ “I Am” Statements Hard Sayings of Jesus”

Jesus Christ-his life and work-is the heart of the gospel message. A study of Jesus “I Am” statements will define who Jesus claimed to be and reveal to us the many facets of his mercy and love.

January 5th- “I Am”

January 12th- “I Am the Bread of Life”

January 19th- “I Am the Light of the World”

January 26th- “I Am the Gate”

Altar Guild: Leader: Mary Burel

The altar guild will have their next meeting on Wednesday, January 8th at 10:00 am and following the meeting will take down all the Christmas decorations. If there is anyone interested in finding out more about the Altar Guild, you are welcome to attend their meeting.

“Mornings with Mommy”



We had fun on December 3rd singing Happy Birthday to Jesus. The children also learned a new song “Away in A Manger” that they will sing on Christmas Eve in church.

Jane Valley and her team put on a very special puppet show about the Christmas story.

Each parent was asked to write down a gift that their child/children would like for Christmas and Jane then made up a Christmas tree and members and friends of Open Bible were invited to pick a name and purchase that gift for the children. This went very well!

On December 23rd or on Christmas Eve the children came to pick up their gifts that were waiting under the tree in the Fellowship Hall. There was an extra surprise...each child could also pick out a large stuffed animal to take home.

(Thank-you to a special donor.)

The next Mornings with Mommy will be on Tuesday, January 7th and January 21st from 9:30 – 11:00am. Please contact Jane Valley if you’d like to help or have a child (up to age 5) that would like to attend.



Church Key Holders

Reminder: If anyone has a key to the church, please let the church secretary, Karen Pearson know that you have one. Thank you for your cooperation.

After Service Fellowship

Thank you to all members that have helped with kitchen duty for Sunday Fellowship for the last year. The new sign-up sheets are now available, so please sign up to volunteer for the new year.

If you have any questions, please call: Mary Helen Schultz, Fellowship Coordinator 352-430-3993.

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. Gordon & Shirley Roback will take the items to the donation site for the Wildwood Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

The 2020 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.

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.

Saturday Worship Services

Saturdays, January 11th through April, 2020: 4:00pm.

Join us on Saturday for a blended Worship Service.

A blended service includes the basics of a traditional liturgy. We will have a confession of sins, absolution, Scripture readings, Creed, Prayers, Lord's Prayer and Benediction. How it differs is that we will have appropriate modern Christian music played, where we will join the singers, by following along with the words on the screen. Since we do not have any guitar players, we will initially use recorded music with singers. Some traditional hymns will be included that are played by guitars and other instruments. There will be a children's message each week, as well as a sermon based on one of the readings. It is our hope that some of the young families who have participated in our Mornings with Mommy program, as well as members of our own membership who have interest in modern Christian music will join us for worship.

Church Envelopes

Please check your mailbox for the 2020 Offerring envelopes. If you are in need of envelopes, please see Bill Sigurdson so he can assign a number for you. Envelope date is not looked at by the counters, it will be deposited when given as will multiple envelopes. Envelopes have a seal to use if you wish. Please do not use scotch tape to seal your envelope, it makes it very difficult to open.

All envelopes, etc. are kept for historical backup. Also, it will help the counters if you label it "cash" when you do use cash. Also putting on the amount saves the counters time and avoids errors. If you forget your envelope, use the pew envelope and use your name or number and it will be entered correctly.

Any further questions, notify Bill Sigurdson

Also, we have another set of mailboxes, so everyone should be in alphabetical order. If you cannot reach your mailbox, please let Karen Pearson (church secretary) know and she can rearrange it so it will be lower.

Annual Voter's Meeting

The Annual Voter's Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th at 11:00am. All Open Bible members are welcome to attend.

The Church Council is Asking that Any New Male Members who joined Open Bible since the January 2019 Congregational meeting to sign the "voter registration book" (if you have not already done so). The book will be located on the friendship/greeters table starting Sunday, January 12th.



Happy Anniversary

Mike and Linda Villemure - 12
Ed & Marilyn Pearson - 25



Happy Birthday

Armand Occhetti - 3
Mike Villemure - 3
Pat Omness - 4
Carol Hinz - 5
Paula Malec - 6
Jim Duncan - 7
Ed Pearson - 8
Doug Tharp - 8
Dave Mottl - 11
Eva Orcutt - 12
Fred Aguda - 15
Diane Kuhlman - 16
Leslie Nelson - 18
Vern Griffin - 18
Loreli Aguda - 22
Marilyn Vander Weir - 22
Nancy Gonia - 24
John Marks - 26
Joan Blaho - 29
Bob Hinz - 31

Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Mark M. Schulz

4671 Bellwether Lane

Oxford, FL 34484

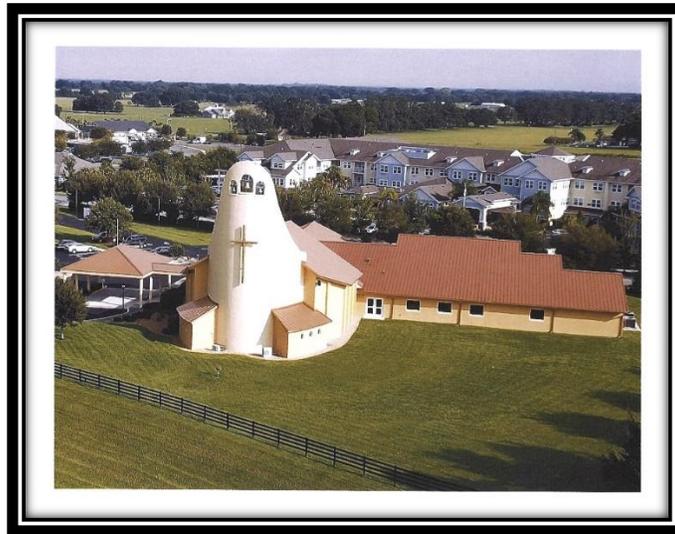
352-753-9038, 989-525-5514

Pastor Rodger Dale: 352-901-1162

“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
I-Pad and go immediately to our web site.

