



FROM THE PASTOR

Matthew 7:24-27 Build on The Rock

The Navy Seals went in to take out the infamous murderer Osama Bin Ladin. They went right into his house. But that wasn't the first time they had done so. We have learned that they made a house just like his and practiced the raid over and over again. They did that so that when the time actually came to raid the real house and things got difficult, they would know what to do.

Jesus teaches that when people listen to his word and live according to it, they build a strong house. Of course, he is not talking about a strong physical house, but a strong spiritual house. If we hear his word but don't put it into practice, then our spiritual house has a very weak foundation. When the storms of life come along, our house will crack and creak and crash. If we hear his word and put it into practice, our spiritual house is built on an immovable foundation. When the troubles of life come along, our house will stand firm.

Jesus gives us many promises in his word. He promises to forgive us. He promises that he will always be with us. He promises that when we live according to his will, we will be blessed. If we hear those promises of Jesus, but don't take them to heart and fail to base our lives on them, then our house of faith is on shaky ground. When the troubles of life come along, and they always do, our natural reaction will be to follow our sinful natures which are always wrong, and we will fail and fall. But if we hear his word, believe it and regularly practice it, when life gets difficult, we will know what to do—put our full trust in the unfailing promises of our unchanging God. Now that's a house that won't fall.

Open Bible Welcomes 5 New Adult Full-time Members

On June 29th, five new adult full-time members were welcomed into membership at Open Bible. They are Robert and Pam Riches, Patricia Kramer, Patricia Kontak, and Arlene Kiewra. Joe and Paula Malec will also be received into membership once they return from vacation in mid-July.

Time of Planning

During the month of July, Pastor Schulz will be putting together ideas for Bible studies and small group studies that will begin in September. Time will be spent making personal calls on prospects to our congregation. More discussion will take place on some of the recent recommendations by our Long Range Planning Committee. Finally, another New Life in Christ class will be starting once recruitment letters and follow-up phone calls take place. This may be a time of slower outward activity at Open Bible, but the wheels of the Gospel continue to turn. Go Open Bible!

Pastor Partners Mentoring Team

Pastor Schulz has been asked by our District President and the President of our Seminary to serve on the Pastor Mentoring Team. A Pastor mentor is an experienced pastor who develops a relationship with a new graduate from the seminary, helping him to get off to a strong start in ministry as habits are forming. Our Synod will provide transportation, lodging and meals for Pastor Schulz to attend the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Symposium on September 22nd-24th where he would also receive mentor training for this position. Pastor Schulz would begin his role by being a mentor to Pastor Brian Wrobel, who is a new pastor at Zion in Gainesville, Florida.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 21 annually signals the beginning of summer as well as the longest day of the year. And with the longest day comes (hopefully) the longest period of sunlight in our calendar year. Most everyone loves sunshine and its warmth. Just ask most of our northern neighbors who experienced one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record. There were not a whole lot of sunlight days. The bright sunshine that we see on a regular basis, symbolizes warmth, happiness, and life.

Imagine back to the early moments of the first day on earth. God calls the heavens and the earth into existence. But there is no form of life; there is no light. God changed that with one simple sentence. "Let there be light." And there was light in all its brilliance and splendor. The power of God's spoken word shattered the darkness and demonstrated the wonder of His love in His creation.

Darkness cannot produce light. That light has to come from an outside source. Our world is darkened by sin, and people grope in the darkness trying to find ways to please God and to find some way to get to heaven. In the darkness of unbelief, all such attempts end in total failure. So also our dark hearts cannot find or produce the light of faith and life. But God in His infinite mercy has seen to it that we receive those gifts through His powerful Word that brought light into the darkness of our world.

God wants us to have life. Just as all biological life on earth owes its existence to the physical light from the sun so all spiritual life that we have by God's grace, comes from the work of Jesus Christ. When Jesus was on the cross he took our sins up there with Him and suffered God's anger in our place. Now God sees us not as filthy sinners who deserve nothing but punishment, but as His precious children. It was because he looked forward to the joy of saving sinners like us that Jesus the Son of God endured the cross. In Jesus is life and that life is the light that guides our way to eternity with our Lord. It is that light that brings a

smile to our face when we believe in the life waiting for us in heaven.

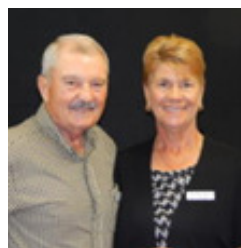
God's desire is to fill you with His light. He wants you to shine as a brilliant testimony of His presence and power in your life, so that the darkness in the lives of those around you will be displaced by the light of God's glory.

Bask in the glow of faith's light, which God's powerful Word has shined in your heart. Your life is God's gift to you; make it your gift to God.

All God's blessings,
Greg Wendorf

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

RON AND MARY HELEN SCHULTZ



We all accept that a funeral service is an emotional event mixed with sadness for the survivors, but also we receive reassurance in the resurrection. Bob Mathias' Memorial Service most likely was no different, but there is also a special joy in knowing that the service resulted in their friends and neighbors, Ron and Mary Helen Schultz, becoming members at Open Bible.

Ron had been a lifelong Catholic with a Catholic school education through college. Mary Helen was Christian Alliance and Presbyterian prior to marriage to Ron in 1963 at which time she and Ron were married in the Catholic Church. In spite of those religious traditions, when Ron and Mary Helen left Bob's memorial service at Open Bible, they said they were so impressed with the church and the pastor's message that they agreed to look further into Open Bible as their church. Many of you have heard pastor recap the event about Ron golfing an exceptionally good game after visiting Open Bible and then Pastor Schulz knocking at the door and just at the right moment when Ron and Mary Helen had been discussing Open Bible. After the process of classes and acceptance of Open Bible's teaching, Ron and Mary Helen became

DISTRICT CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

By Ron Brutlag

members. Once again, the true biblical message and the friendly, welcoming of our members can quickly make Open Bible home to our visitors!

Ron and Mary Helen are East Coasters, having met in New York when Ron was in management in the grocery related business. In fact, Ron noticed Mary Helen's talents as a young soda fountain clerk and hired her. Ron and Mary Helen have been blessed with a marriage started young in life, but enduring 51 years to date. Both Ron and Mary Helen said they grew up poor and learned the necessity of hard work. While raising their three children, Ron was in management with long hours and related stresses and Mary Helen took care of the children and did sewing from the house, such as bridesmaid dresses, window coverings, etc. In 1989 after Ron and Mary Helen transferred to Chicago, Mary Helen became a Realtor. In fact, her strong, competitive nature paid big dividends as she was the top agent at a very large Real Estate Company in the Chicago area. While Mary Helen sold real estate, Ron put his other skills to work and took over the household and became a gourmet chef. Ron was even published in the Chicago paper for his exceptional cooking ability.

Besides Ron's passion for cooking, both Mary Helen and Ron were competitive tennis players for many years, only recently putting away their racquets after moving full time to Southern Trace in the Villages in 2012. Their son, Eric, with his wife and two children live in Naperville, Illinois, and their two daughters live in Boston; Beth with her husband and two children, and Susan with her husband and three children.

Ron and Mary Helen's advice is "trust in God and enjoy life together and be supportive of each other". As Ron stated, "the most important person in your life is your wife", and "marriage is a blessing". Also, "success is passing on a good work ethic to your children and a good marriage foundation".

Once again, we are so very blessed at Open Bible to receive talented, enthusiastic new members. We welcome Ron and Mary Helen and are honored to have them worship with us.

By Michael Benrud

An inspiring opening service began the convention under the theme, "Preach the Gospel." The sermon was given by Professor John Brenner from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The message emphasized the importance of the Seminary in the preaching of the Gospel and in training faithful messengers of the Gospel. The communion service was attended by over 400 worshipers.

The Synodical Council report informed the convention floor that the once balanced budget was now not balanced because of lower Congregation Mission Offerings (CMOs). As a result programs needed to be cut back and less mission endeavors so that the budget could be brought back into balance. The World Mission report enlightened the convention on the many world areas where we are "Preaching the Gospel." The world is crying for the precious Gospel that we can provide. Home Missions is once again opening new mission congregations but at a slower rate than was hoped for in this biennium.

Day two began with an opening devotion based on Isaiah's "Preaching the Gospel." Pastor Caleb Kurbis was the devotional leader. The historical paper, "The Seminary's Service to the Synod," was presented by Professor John Brenner. This paper followed the history of the seminary as it prepared and continues to prepare pastors to Preach the Gospel. It was noted that students preparing for the pastoral ministry at the college level is at a low level. If this continues we will have a shortage of pastors in the years to come. The presentation was followed by a video which highlighted a 2014 graduate who received his first call.

The Tuesday afternoon session began with a presentation by Missionary Jon Bare on his work and our work in China. Even though there are many challenges of our work here, The Lord has blessed our efforts. Today we have 64 teachers teaching ESL classes and 5 full time missionaries working among the 1.35 billion people. There are actually Lutheran congregations established on the mainland. Keep this ministry in your prayers.

The closing day of the convention opened with a morning devotion by Pastor Stephen Mueller and was based on Peter's sermon to a Gentile household. Just as the fences came down around Peter allowing him to preach to a new group of people so we also can freely preach to all nations.

The convention opened with words from district president John Guse. He asked for our prayers as he serves another term as our district president. He also thanked the outgoing officers and outgoing committee chairs or committee members for their faithful service to the district.

A report was given by Pastor Jon Schroeder on the New Hymnal project. We are about 10 years out from getting a new hymnal. The project has begun and going strong. A website is available for perusal and keeping up to date as to how the project is going. Hopefully this project will be completed in less than 10 years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Genie Selvey – 1
- Diane Brutlag – 2
- Renda Mackey – 4
- Angela Spengler – 4
- Lois Klatt – 4
- Joanie Musiel – 6
- Sally Stocks – 6
- Joan Bielefeldt – 13
- Charlotte Cummings – 14
- Kim Mottl – 27

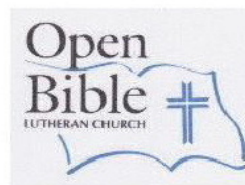
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Dave & Nancy Gonia – 3
- Del & Linda Draeger – 6
- Frank & Genie Selvey – 7
- Dave & Kim Mottl – 20
- Shane & Adrianna Thise – 21
- Dan & Joan Blaho – 22

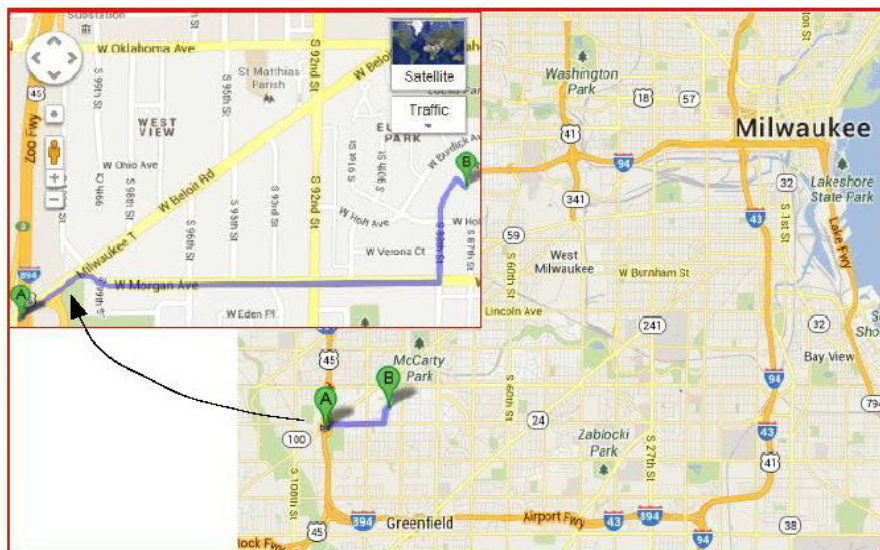


6th ANNUAL SNOWBIRDS PICNIC

Friday, July 25, 2014



Home of:
Carol and Jerry Yahn
3313 S. 87th Court
Milwaukee, WI 53227
jercaryahn@gmail.com
RSVP: (414) 241-1450



11am: Informal Gathering
Noon: Pot Luck Lunch

Fellowship, Games, and Golf available

Dinner: Fish Fry at local restaurant
About 5:00pm

- 1) Off of I-894 Beloit Rd exit #3, go East to very next intersection (Morgan Ave)
- 2) Slight right turn onto East Morgan Ave, and go 0.7 mi (to top of hill)
- 3) Turn left onto 88th St (two blocks later becomes Ohio Ave)
- 4) Go 3 blocks to 87th Court
- 5) Turn right onto 87th Court
- 6) 2nd house on the right with flag pole.