

FROM THE PASTOR

See With Eyes of Faith

Elijah had just won a great duel with the priests of Baal. The Lord had consumed his offering with fire, while the priests of Baal had gotten no response from their god. However, after this victory, Jezebel put a contract out on Elijah's life. Elijah was on the run, thinking now that God had deserted him. In I Kings 19:14 he says, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." But the Lord reassured Elijah that he was just looking at what he saw immediately in front of his eyes. There were 7000 that Elijah didn't see, who were loyal and loved the true God. Elijah was not alone. The Lord would protect him.

On the last Sunday in May, Del Draeger said to me after worship. "Boy, the attendance is really down from a month ago, Pastor." There were 88 in attendance. From outward appearances, Del was right. Our congregation had had three Sundays in the past two months, where we had 174, 175, and 174 in worship. But what Del didn't see is what I saw last Sunday. There were 19 people in church who were looking for a church home. There were 13 who are presently taking classes or preparing to take classes for full-time membership, and 6 new guests visiting for the first time.

So with the eyes of faith, God showed me that there was something deeper to see at the service where Del saw only 88. There were 19 new souls at Open Bible who were wanting to connect to a church fellowship and more closely with their Savior. As the Lord encouraged Elijah by showing him the 7000 who had not bent the knee to Baal, so the Lord showed me the 19. I look at the current pullback in worship attendance as like a stock market correction in a long term bull market. The Lord is providing us an opportunity to nurture the newcomers in the Word of God during these summer months.

As we begin the summer months, I am looking forward to doing several New Life in Christ classes, and spending time meeting and talking with prospective families to Open Bible. Summer will be a time for me to grow spiritually as I attend a 4 day class at our Pastor Conference in Cocoa Beach on "Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage." It will be a time to recharge batteries as I head out to California for my daughter's graduation from Medical residency in late June. Finally, it will be a time to plan an exciting fall at Open Bible where we hope to start several new small group ministries. (Women's Bible study, Singles', 466A group, Water Oak, and Springdale small groups) and if the Lord blesses us with some small children, a Sunday School or Children's Church beginning on September 8th.

I keep telling the Lord to just show me the way to go at Open Bible. Give me the eyes of faith to see what needs to be done, who needs to be reached, and to trust unquestioning in His leading. Join me in seeing with the Eyes of Faith!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ripley's Believe It or Not is a franchise founded by Robert Ripley, which deals with items and events so strange and unusual that readers often question their claims. It is very easy to catch yourself saying "I can't believe that happened" or better yet "I can't believe someone would do that".

There are many people in our world today that say or feel the same about the existence of God. It was the same way before he sent His Son Jesus into this world, while he lived here amongst us, and after His resurrection from the dead. It seems that the farther we move away from the time he ministered to us and then died for our sins, the harder it gets for many to believe. And isn't that just what Satan wants to happen?

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

By Leslie Nelson

About seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write about the coming Savior, His eventual suffering and death, and the triumphant resurrection of the promised Messiah. The people of Isaiah's nation, Israel, heard the message he proclaimed but many of God's own people would not believe.

Even one of Jesus' very own disciples (Thomas) had an extremely difficult time believing that Jesus had risen from the dead. His fellow disciples and trusted friends told him they had seen their Lord. Thomas knew that Christ had been crucified, his side had been pierced and he had been officially declared dead. There was no doubt that he had died and been buried. When the disciples told him that they had seen Jesus alive with their own eyes, Thomas's reaction was, "Impossible! I don't believe it". Thomas had been there when Jesus raised Lazarus and others from the dead, but to believe that Jesus himself had been raised was more than Thomas was willing to believe. "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my fingers where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it". (John 20:24-25) We all know the rest of that story.

Is it any small wonder why so many people today about 2000 years later have this same problem? How is it then that we believe and confess Jesus to be the Lord's servant who has redeemed us from our sin and prepared for us a home in heaven? Thankfully God isn't limited by what we humans conceive as possible. Our God is the God of the impossible. How blessed we are that our God has chosen us and daily sends the Holy Spirit to strengthen that faith that lingers in our hearts. We continue to be blessed to hear the message of salvation and by the Spirit's power we believe. In thankfulness we share that good news so others may also believe. Don't allow your surroundings to determine how you invest your life. Remember, we are significant, not because of what we do, but because of whose we are. Only a great God does for his children what they can't do for themselves.

God's blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf



Ardyce and Larry Fronk were both born in 1932 in rural Wisconsin. Their parents owned small farms where the children grew up learning the value of hard work. They were only 9 when World War II started.

They met the next year when Larry's family moved to Dalton, near Ardyce's family. They were in 5th grade, and their school was involved in helping the war effort. All the kids belonged to the "Clean Plate Club," didn't waste anything, and learned to save by taking 25 cents to school each Friday to buy a stamp that went into a book that would hold \$18.75 and be worth \$25.00 some day in the future. The government used the money to finance the war effort. Ardyce's savings totaled 4 war bonds, which matured in time to pay for her wedding dress! For a school project the kids would go into the countryside to collect milkweed pods. The milkweed was then used to fill life vests for soldiers.

Larry and Ardyce were both baptized as infants and later confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church in Dalton. Ardyce joined her church choir after being confirmed and has sung in choirs most of her life since then. They both attended Wisconsin State Colleges. Larry majored in physical education and science and graduated from WSC LaCrosse, while Ardyce majored in elementary education and graduated from WSC Oshkosh.

Ardyce taught in elementary school until their children were born and then returned to teaching after their children were in school. Larry taught and coached in high schools and junior high schools. He did construction work during summers.

The Fronks are proud of their three sons, who are faithful, active members of their churches and have raised their five wonderful, Christian grandchildren. Their sons are: Thomas, married with two grown sons, who has been an airline captain with US Airways for 30 years and lives in Charlotte, NC; David, married with one son, who is a sales representative selling computer and other electronic parts to manufacturers, and lives in Hartland, WI; and Robert, married with two grown daughters, who is an insurance executive living in Dallas, TX.

The Fronk's lives have been filled with church, school and family activities, including attending hundreds of athletic events. They have also traveled a great deal, visiting all 50 states and many foreign countries.

Today they live part-time in The Villages, spending the other part in Fort Atkinson, WI, where they have a condo. Ardyce says, "We've been so blessed by our Lord living long, healthy lives. On June 20, 2013, we will be celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary. We can only praise the Lord for our many blessings!"

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We would like all of our members to mark Sunday, July 7, as a service you could invite friends to Open Bible. We will be having a Patriotic themed worship service. We are looking for veterans to help with this service. Please contact Pastor or Ron Brutlag if you would like to participate. You will be bringing in the flag and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

If you would like to sing in a choir but not join full time you will have a chance to do this for our anniversary service on Aug. 4th. Talk to Stacy or Ron if you are interested.

The choral reading of the creed last week was a great way to go through this long creed. We thank Pastor for doing it this way.

Until next month let's worship and praise our Lord and Savior each week.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Plans are finalized for our June activity which will be held on Thursday, June 27th. Thirteen people have signed up to go on a two hour river cruise with Captain Mike on the Withlacoochee River. We will leave church at 8:30 am for the 10:00 am cruise. Following the cruise we plan to do lunch in the area. Cost for the cruise is \$18/person. This will be collected before we leave because cash is only accepted. Lunch is on your own. I have heard that this is a fabulous tour and is very informative. We will be on a canopied pontoon so the sun shouldn't be a problem. We will be carpooling from church.

This activity will end our events for a few months. We are still looking for two couples who would be willing to take over this committee in 2014. Don't be shy. You can speak to Ron or Diane Brutlag if you are interested.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At our May meeting it was reported that we have a surplus in our checking account that should remain to the end of the year, even after the slower summer giving months. The Lord has truly blessed us by opening the hearts of our members to give generously and proportionally for the work of our church and synod.

The Lord tells us to give our fruits of faith, and in many ways our members are doing this financially. However, it is not good stewardship to stockpile monetary gifts. As the Bible tells us, "Now is the appointed time, now is the day of your salvation." Jesus will soon return, and His Work needs to be carried out now with the gifts God's people have graciously given. There is a distinct possibility that we may be blessed with a \$20,000 surplus at year end after our budget is met. The council would like to ask the membership their opinion on what to do with the surplus. The council has suggested a number of ideas on what could be done with this money. We ask that you comment to a council member before our September congregational meeting at which time a decision will be made. Following are ideas brought forth:

1. Purchase a \$10,000 Certificate of Deposit with LACE.
2. Purchase the Risen Savior statue.
3. Increase our Congregation Mission Offering to Synod.
4. Purchase the new signage being planned for our church.
5. Pay off more of the debt on our mortgage.

Please don't hesitate to talk to a council member about your thoughts on these items.

Another council action:

1. Released Joe and Darla Cucchi.
2. Accepted Bob and Carol Swann by profession of faith.
3. Accepted as Associate Members: Bill and Mary Whitford, and Larry and Donna Reed.

4. Purchased banners for Pentecost and Trinity (this one was donated by a family from Open Bible.)
5. Making final plans for the 10th Anniversary of Open Bible.
6. Scheduled a special meeting for the sole purpose of working on the By-laws.

OPEN BIBLE BOOK CLUB

16 members of Open Bible participated in the first book club gathering at 11:00 am on May 28th. After an opening prayer and introductions by Pastor Schulz, the group discussed the book, "End Times". A lively discussion took place over the next an hour and ½. After the discussion was completed, Gail Rathgeber provided a great chicken salad sandwich lunch for everyone. The group decided to read the book, "Creation" by Cleone H. Weigand for June 25th at 11:00 am. Armand Occhetti will be leading the discussion questions on the book. For more information on the Open Bible Book Club, please contact, Mary Price at maryprice4706@comcast.net

ALUMUNUM CANS UPDATE

Back in May 2007, Sharon Sigurdson suggested collecting aluminum cans as a fund raiser for our ladies group. She volunteered her home to store them. She volunteered Bill to take them to the recycling plant in Leesburg. They have faithfully done this for 6 years. The Women of Open Bible are very appreciative. In the past year we've made \$161.00. Thank you Bill and Sharon.

They do request that you crumple them up as tight as you can, but even more important than that, PLEASE rinse them out. Otherwise, it creates a sticky, smelly mess. We certainly do not want them to become discouraged because of this. Our group also thanks everyone for saving and bringing your aluminum cans to church for recycling.

Ruth Vance

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Please check in with the main office in Appleton (1-800-236-3736) to maintain your Choice Dollars. This needs to be done at least once a year.

Bill Sigurdson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- Alan & Pam Johnson – 1
- Gene & Bette McConkey – 3
- John and Janis Liermann – 5
- Robert & Joyce Miller – 7
- Greg & Carol Wendorf – 7
- Art & Esther Hartwig – 8
- Armand & Dianne Occhetti – 9
- Jerry & Mary Brooks – 10
- Ron & Diane Brutlag – 14
- Joe & Mary Price – 15
- Ken & Elisabeth Wells – 15
- Tom & Betty DeWitz – 18
- Larry & Ardyce Fronk – 20
- Norm & Charlotte Vathhauer – 20
- Dan & Karen Pearson – 25
- Walt & Bonnie Farnsworth – 25
- Matt & Dorothy Draeger – 29
- Bob & Carol Hinz – 29

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- June Murray – 1
- Joanne Stuedemann – 7
- Jeanne Schulz – 9
- Carol Stauske – 12
- Ruth Niermeyer – 13
- Ken Wells – 13
- Tom Pawlowski – 15
- Ardyce Fronk – 27
- Mary Brooks – 29
- Ted Hahm – 29