



Newsletter



March 2019

Volume 14 No. 3

From the Pastor "Church Yeast"

by Pastor Mark Schulz

Only bakers really appreciate the usefulness and function of yeast. Bread made without it stays flat and compact, and it is not particularly enjoyable to eat unless baked in thin sheets. Yeast in dough reacts with the starches and produces carbon dioxide, which causes the whole ball of dough to expand and rise. When baked, the yeast dies, but the air pockets remain, creating fluffier and tastier bread.

That's how the Holy Spirit works among people. Jesus "told them still another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.'" (Matthew 13:33) When yeast is kneaded into dough, it is invisible; nothing happens right away. But in its own time the dough expands and rises, driven by the yeast.

In the same way we are not able to see the Holy Spirit as he moves through groups of people. Sometimes it may seem as if nothing is happening, but when you look at the steady growth of the church from the handful at Jesus' time to the millions of believers today, all you can do is marvel.

God doesn't want us thinking that we can do his job, and he absolutely refuses to do ours. We can't convert people but can certainly share the yeasty Word that does. Go Open Bible. Never give up on your unchurched friends. Keep sharing the good news!

President's Message

Can you remember back to your childhood and attending Sunday School? At some point and time, you probably had to memorize the Ten Commandments. As difficult as that may have been, we managed to work our way through the task.

In doing some recent reading I came across a modern-day version of a Layman's 10 Commandments. They are similar to the originals but offer a little different perspective on how to look at life. I hope you enjoy!

- 1) Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
- 2) So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large & the Rear-view Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
- 3) Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes years to write, but only a few seconds to burn.
- 4) All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 5) Old friends are Gold! New friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond you always need a Base of Gold!

- 6) Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7) When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems, HE has faith in your abilities.
- 8) A blind person asked a friend: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" The friend replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
- 9) When you pray for others, GOD listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 10) WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

These nuggets of wisdom are designed to help light our path through life. They, coupled with Faith and Trust in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, can lighten our burden of facing what this life places in front of us on a daily basis. Always let God be the guiding light in your life.

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

Questions About the Bible: What was the Sanhedrin?

After he was betrayed, Jesus was brought before Caiaphas, the high priest, who presided over the Sanhedrin, which sought a way to put Him to death. As the Jewish high court, the Sanhedrin consisted of 71 religious' leaders-chief priests, elders, teachers of the law. Its jurisdiction in civil cases was limited to Judea. It could order arrests but could

not carry out capital punishment. Although the Sanhedrin was the legitimate ecclesiastical court of God's people, at the occasion of Jesus' trial, the court broke all of its own rules and made a mockery of justice. For instance, cases involving capital punishment had to have two trials separated by at least one day. Trials were to be held during daylight hours. Yet in their anger and haste to be rid of Jesus, the Sanhedrin played fast and loose with the laws of God and humans.

Blended Services

Open Bible has a blended Worship Service on Saturdays. Service begins at 4:00pm in our new Fellowship Hall, utilizing the new screen and a worship software program called Media Shout.

Some have asked, "What is a blended 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.

Come and Join us.

Welcome Back Associate Members & Guests!

Here at Open Bible Lutheran Church, people come from all over the country. Florida is home to transplants and the guest visitors, who want to winter in the warm sunshine.

It does not take very long from the time one comes through the doors of Open Bible to know they are welcome and what a special person they are. The members are happy to see them and embrace them with open arms. Wanting each person to feel at home, questions are asked, like, "do you live in the area?" If visiting, "where are you from?" Even if you say California, North Dakota, or Rhode Island, they will be matched up with a member from their home state. Name tags are worn by all our members. Each interested guest will be given one and be called by their name.

On Sunday, March 10th, we will "Welcome Back" all of our Associate Members and guests with a special fellowship and a cake. So, join us during Fellowship.

LWMS Spring Rally



The Spring Rally will be held Saturday, March 9th at Victory Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Registration and coffee start at 9:00am/Rally begins at 10:00am. Speaker will be Pastor Lucas Bitter and his topic is Urban Ministry. He has a church in downtown Atlanta.

LWMS News:

The "Befriend a Mission" assignments for 2019-2020 have been identified. The North Florida circuit, which we are part of, has been given the following missions and missionaries to befriend. Our World Mission is Africa- Phillip Birner is one of the missionaries in Africa. He is stationed in Lusaka, Zambia. Rev. Birner has been teaching at the Lutheran Church of Central Africa Seminary located in Avondale, a suburb of Lusaka. He has also been doing exploratory work in Rwanda for the One Africa Team. Check out the activities of the One Africa Team at www.justoneafrica.com or www.welsfriendsofafrica.com.

Pastor Birner and his wife Susan have 4 children. Three of them are in the U.S. studying. Ben, the eldest, will graduate from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in May. Zach is in Medical School at the University of Wis. in Madison. Sophia is in her 4th year of a teaching program at Martin Luther College. The youngest is Peggy at 6 years old. She is being home schooled to help bring her up to grade level. They have just begun the process to adopt Peggy and ask for prayers as that process continues. Susan is one of the wives highlighted on the Prayer Calendar for 2019. Copies of Pastor Birner's email to me and Susan's Letter from the calendar are available on the LWMS display table. These letters give additional insight into their lives as missionaries.

Our Home Mission assignments are "The Way Church" in Fredericksburg, VA and San Pedro Ev. Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI. The Way Church officially launched public worship services in Fredericksburg, VA Sept. 19, 2017 with 16 families. Their mission statement is "The Way exists that people from all walks of life may know The Way, The Truth, and The Life found exclusively in

Christ.

Trinity Lutheran church, Woodbridge, VA is their ministry partner.

Rev. Matthew Rothe is the pastor and refers to himself as a church planter. He was born in Michigan, raised in Florida and spent most of his life in Wisconsin. He married his best friend, Emily, in 2014. They were anticipating the arrival of their first child in May of 2017.

There is a lot of information on the church's webpage about the church, its mission and beliefs, their hopes for helping people find their way home in Christ. It can be found at <http://thewaychurchva.com/who-we-are>.

The second home mission is San Pedro Evangelical Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, W. This church's information can be found at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church's webpage. It is <http://www.stpetermilwaukee.com> San Pedro (St Peter) is a small congregation which is receiving mission help to rebuild their congregation. Their mission is "to reach out to the diverse culture in which they are located with the truth of God's word.

Rev. William Dunn serves as the bilingual Spanish pastor at San Pedro. He was installed at San Pedro July 3, 2016. He and his wife Lauren have 3 children with another on the way according to the webpage. Lauren is a Spanish graduate student at U of W- Milwaukee. She leads the Spanish Women's Bible Study every Friday morning. Having spent his entire youth growing up in Texas he is well prepared for the role of bilingual pastor at San Pedro.

Eight children of our overseas missionaries serving in Africa, are in school in the United States. The WinGS have sent a gift card and Valentine to each of them. We are hoping that it will be an encouragement to them as they

continue their education so far away from their parents and siblings. They are listed on the LWMS display if you would like to send any of them a note of encouragement.
Your LWMS Reporter, *Peggi Carrier*

466A Group Bible Study

The March meetings will be held on Tuesdays, March 12th & 26th at 2:00pm. The Topic: What is Christian Apologetics and Peter's use of Apologetics at Pentecost (The Reason I Believe, Chapters 8-11)

Here are the Dates and Topics:

March 12th: The Resurrection and Alternative Theories, and Eyewitness Testimony and the Validity of the Gospels (Chapters 8 & 9)

March 26th: Historical Artifacts and Love without Limits (Chapters 10-11)

If you are planning of attending, please call the hosts for that day so they can save you a seat!

Pastor Rodger Dale is the Facilitator.

Care for the Caregivers At Open Bible

Pastor Dale is inviting you to attend the next caregiver gathering on Thursday, March 7th at 2:00pm in Open Bible's conference room (off the Fellowship Hall.) Feel free to invite a guest who may be interested in this group. Previous sessions have proved to be very helpful. Feel free to call Judy Anderson at (352-643-0077) for more information. On April 4th we will have a guest speaker, Kimberly Lanning.

Women of Open Bible Spring Tea



Teacups and Tulips

Calling all ladies. You are cordially invited to our "Teacups and Tulips" here at the church on Friday, March 22nd at 12:00 noon.

This is an annual event for us. We will be serving finger sandwiches, scones and scrumptious desserts.

A Fashion show will follow the tea and our own models from Open Bible will participate. Invitations will be available if you wish to invite friends and neighbors. There will be sign-up sheets for attendance and tea food items needed. The sign-up sheets are on the small table by the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. Space is limited to 100. Hats and white gloves are not necessary to attend but will be fun!

Mornings with Mommy



"Mornings with Mommy" is a fun and easy way for a mom to enjoy activities with her children and meet other moms.

There will be age appropriate activities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. And the best part is...we do all the planning, you just sign up! Snacks and activities are FREE! Moms can mingle with each other while enjoying activities with their children including: Arts and Crafts, Sensory Tables, Flannel Stories, Story Time, Music, Educational Toys, and a Yummy Snack. Register online today at: www.openbiblelutheran church.com (right side of home page) or Call 352-753-9038 Every first and third Tuesday of the month. The March dates are Tuesdays, March 5th & 19th.

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers

If you have never attended our Wednesday Soup Suppers, you are in for a treat! Beginning on March 6th, Ash Wednesday from 4:30 – 5:15pm, we will have our soup suppers hosted by various small groups from Open Bible. Each menu is different and made by participants in the group. The suppers are followed by the Mid-week Lenten services.

March 6th: WinGS

March 13th: Choir

March 20th: Church Council, Board of Elders

March 27th: WinGS

April 3rd: Men of Leisure, BOB, Defenders

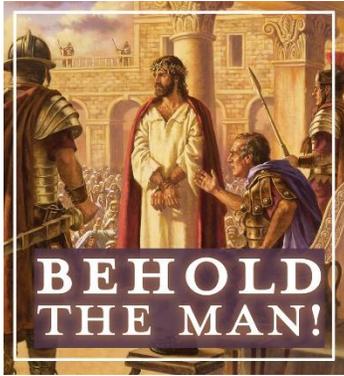
April 10th: 466A group, North Country

Midweek Lenten Service

Wednesdays at 5:30 beginning
Wednesday, March 6th

Behold the Man!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was



made. . . . The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
—*John 1:1–3, 14*

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest, yet most profound, sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real, bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus’ return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal, triune God, who we confess in the Nicene Creed as “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God . . . of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made,” became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

In some ways, you can understand that the first heresy the Christian Church had to contend with was that of Gnosticism, the hyper spiritual religion that held that because no man could be God, the Christ could not be God. Gnosticism is alluring because it tidies everything up, gives Christianity a more attractive, spiritual veneer, and pulls its adherents out of the mire of this world and gives them something other-worldly to strive for. Considered correctly, it becomes pretty hard to spiritualize Christianity—a religion that bases its existence on the enfleshment, the incarnation, of her God—into the mess of disembodied, matter-rejecting, hyper spiritual Gnosticism. When God has flesh and blood, skin and teeth, cells and nuclei, DNA and RNA, it’s difficult to contend for the disembodied spiritual against the material. If God has a body, bodies must matter.

In case you aren’t convinced of the pervasiveness of the second-century heresy of Gnosticism, even in our twenty-first-century context, attend a funeral. If you hear talk only of heaven with nary a word of a bodily resurrection, you’ve witnessed firsthand modern-day Gnosticism. If the preacher doesn’t deal with the body in the casket as the real person whose death has assembled the mass of grieving relatives and friends, if he talks only about the bodiless soul in heaven, he hasn’t preached a genuinely Christian funeral. In other words, if he gives preference to the spiritual over the material, he succumbs to the Gnostic heresy the earliest generations of the Church sought to guard against by preaching the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith

and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodyless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we'll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears? Behold the man! In sermon, in study, in devotion, behold the man!

Small Group Ministry

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork



Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 15th

9:00 – noon. 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.

Men of Leisure—Men's Breakfast Bible



Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler
Meeting on Friday, March 8th 8:30 am. Meeting

place will be Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466 near Buena Vista.

Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen

Journey with Jesus Bible Study will begin to study the Book of Romans on March 4th, 9:15 am. "In 1515 Martin Luther began to teach the book of Romans to his students. He wrote, "Night and day I pondered until,...

I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise...". Any lady wishing to join us, come to Judy Hainen's home March 4.

The Defenders

Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Jim Johnson
The Defenders will meet on Monday, March 18th (new date!) Meet at Wolfy's 2159 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala at 11:30am. After lunch on to R&D Tactical at 1031 NE 16th St, Ocala.

WinGS: Women in God's Service

Led by: Jane Valley



The WinGS Womens group meets the second Wednesday of each month. March's meeting will be on the 13th and

begins at 1:00pm. Come and find out what that's all about!

SPLASH: Single People Loving and



Serving Him
Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale
SPLASH is preparing to

commence their monthly gatherings on Monday March 11th at 1 PM. SPLASH is studying "A Beggar Bargains with the Almighty." If you are new to the church or know someone interested in joining us for our Bible study, come join us. SPLASH is open to singles. This is not a match making function, but rather organized to share our faith and grow through caring for others.

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

This Bible Study will be on Sundays, March 10th & 24th from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Meet at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. The Topic: "Bible Battles" by Stephen Leston. The 11 chapters cover the background, overview, Key players, weapons and meaning of Scriptural Battles. Each lesson will also include the short- and long-term outcomes of each battle covered. The study of the Bible's battles reveals that God is not a spectator regarding human events. God knew the outcome of each war before it began. He masterfully used the outcome to bring about the story of salvation and guide world history.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson

The Ladies Bible Study will continue Tuesday's at 2:00 pm. Topic is "2 Timothy" by Beth Moore. Please contact Pam Johnson at 352-390-6982, if you will be attending.

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.

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. Please contact her if you are interested in joining.

Choir: Open Bible Choir will practice on



Wednesdays at 6:15 pm. They will meet after the Wednesday Lenten Service. There is a special unity when a group of singers practice and minister together. We like to practice four anthems ahead, so we are well prepared. Contact Judy Hainen if you are interested.

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.

BOB Breakfast: A Saturday morning



breakfast at Open Bible followed by a Bible study. The group will meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:30 A.M. March 2nd is the next meeting. Breakfast and fellowship for 45 minutes, followed by a 45-minute Bible class discussion. The group coordinator is Richard Raine. Topic: *March 2nd: Tattoos-Still taboo? Should a Christian get a tattoo?*

Fellowship Group

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

We had a blast at the Valentine Dinner!

There was delicious Lasagna, salad, garlic bread and of course desserts. We even played a fun game of Valentine Bingo with the theme of "The Love of Jesus" And everyone received a special Valentines card. Here are a few pictures.



Desserts!

Grief Share: 13 week video-based small group to help those who have lost a loved one in death. Thursdays for 1:00—2:30pm. Meets when the need arises.

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson



Excitement! Is happening here at Open Bible. The handbells are scheduled to play during the Lenten and Easter season. If you have an interest, or have played handbells before, please speak to Pam Johnson. The handbell choir will rehearse on Sundays, at 11:00am, right after worship.

Annual Fishing Trip

Plans are being made for the annual Fishing Trip on Thursday, March 28th. There will 2- six-person boats. Groups or cars will leave The Villages at 4:30am and return approximately 7:00pm. The boat(s) depart from the docks at Canaveral Cape at 7:00 am. The cost is \$225.00 per person if they have 12 people. Jim Orcutt is the contact person for this event, and he would like your payment to him by Sunday, March 24th. A suggestion to everyone is to bring their own Dramamine in case there is rough waters. Each person must provide their own drinks and sandwiches for the day. Any questions contact Jim Orcutt at 770-289-0366.



Kitchen Crew

Thank you to all members that have been helping to serve as part of our kitchen crew.

This is a wonderful way to use your talents to serve our Lord.

The goal is to have four members, both women and men, every Sunday.

If you wish to serve you may sign up or call Mary Helen Schultz: 352-430-3993.

If you sign up please be at church an hour before service to set up and remain one hour after service to clean up. If you have signed up and find you must cancel, please call Mary Helen. Also, if for any reason you cannot stay to help clean up, again call Mary Helen. In both cases a sub will be found.

One person each week needs to pick up the donuts at Walmart. Reimbursement forms are on the kitchen bulletin board for donuts and other food bought. Also,

on bulletin board is a list of kitchen crew duties.

Thank you,
Kitchen Coordinator
Mary Helen

Did You Know?



Concert March 10th, 2019

Open Bible Church 3:00 pm

Bethel Balge Trio with Special Guest



Bethel Balge, pianist. After a very impressive career performing in Germany and other countries, she became artistic director and founder of a new chamber music series at Martin Luther College in Mew Ulm, MN called Summit Avenue Music Series (SAMS.)



Peter McGuire, violinist. He has performed all over the US and the world. He has even given masterclasses throughout the US and Switzerland.



Jenny Haugen vocalist. She is a Minnesota-based soprano and educator who received her Bachelor of Arts in Music from Bethany Lutheran College (magna cum laude)



Special guest Lyle Lamboly (concert Cellist) He is the principle cellist for both Gainesville and Ocala Symphony Orchestras.

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 white 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 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.



Happy Anniversary

Jim & Eva Orcutt – 8
 Bill & Jeri Leeper – 17
 Gerry & Bo Hughes - 19
 Craig & Jean Marshall – 23
 Jim & Joanie Musiel – 26
 Pastor Mark & Jeanne Schulz – 27
 Vern & Kathy Griffin – 31



Happy Birthday

Christian Schmolke – 2
 Stan Cobb - 2
 Susan Parker -3
 James Malone – 5
 Feg Henkel - 6
 Bonnie Farnsworth – 7
 Pam Johnson – 7
 Pam Riches – 7
 Ty Mitra – 8
 Emily Drake - 10
 Arline Kiewra – 14
 Betty DeWitz – 17
 Richard Kuhlman – 22
 Elisabeth Pittel - 25
 Greg Wendorf – 26
 Chris Moellring – 27
 Jean Butts – 27
 Mary Shara – 28

Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Rodger Dale: 352-9001-1162

“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 iPad and go immediately to our web site.