



Newsletter



March 2020

Volume 15 No. 3

From the Pastor

by Pastor Mark Schulz

Abandoned

"My God, my God, why have your forsaken me? Matthew 27:46

The worst nightmare to a young child is being abandoned by his or her parents. It can also be a burden to those whose parents or spouse have died or left them later in life. It can be a significant burden for those who have been shut out shut up behind prison doors or shut in to nursing homes. Being abandoned is never pleasant. We may try to put up a stiff upper lip, but the nagging despair of forsakenness is still with us in our minds, hearts, and bodies.

Jesus faced the harshest scar when he was dying on the cross. He had already been abandoned by those who wanted him crucified. He had already been betrayed and abandoned by his disciples. But now he was abandoned by his Father, the very one whose mission he was seeking to fulfill. For a time the Father turned his back on Jesus, so he could experience the full weight of our sins, total separation from God. But he was forsaken, so that we would never be forsaken by God. Jesus was and is still with all of us in every moment of time when we are abandoned—even when the truth of our abandonment is exposed. But as people of promise, we also know that this will not be the last word. Lord, when we are left behind by others, we pray for the faith to trust that you will never leave us.

Join us this Lenten season for our Mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays. We have a soup/salad supper at 4:30 P.M. and worship at 5:30 P.M. Our theme this year is: "By His Wounds We Are Healed."

President's Message

Pause for a moment and contemplate just how important prayer is in the life of a Christian. We are truly blessed at Open Bible Church with a multitude of opportunities to guide us in our personal quests to communicate with God. In every Saturday and Sunday Service, Pastor Schulz leads us in our prayer requests for our church, our church family members, and the needs of all Christians around the world. We learn about the power of prayer in our many Bible Study opportunities. We have Prayer groups working behind the scenes praying for each and every OB family member who needs God's comfort. We receive weekly Kneemails with prayer requests for individuals suffering in any way, also prayers of thanksgiving for birthdays and anniversaries. Kneemails also include prayer requests for friends and family of OB members. God has chosen to give us the privilege of being His partner in both the spiritual and physical areas of our lives. Through prayer we work with him in defeating the power of evil and bringing about the

fulfillment of His loving purpose in the world.

Many of us struggle somewhat with prayer. We often forget to pray and when we do remember, we have a tendency to hurry through prayer with hallow words. Our minds drift and our thoughts scatter. As we strive to develop the relationship God desires to have with us, we can start in the morning by inviting Him into our day. At other times we can treasure some time alone with Him and reflect on His faithfulness. As we spend more and more time with God in prayer and His word, we grow in our relationship with Him and learn to become more like Him. Partners with God – what a privilege! What an incentive to pray!

We may not know how or when He will answer our prayers, but we do know He is always there for us. We can always find peace in opening our hearts completely before Him in prayer. Sometimes the answers to our prayers don't come when we would hope, things may even go from bad to worse. But we have to Keep persevering, Keep believing, Keep seeking, Keep trusting, and Keep praying.

In the words of Max Lucado, "You are never without hope because you are never without prayer".

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

March Concert

Date: Sunday, March 8th
Time 9:30 am Worship Service

The MLC College Choir is looking forward to visiting us. They will join us for the 9:30 worship service on that day and we will provide them with lunch following the concert. There will be approximately 70 people in the group.

The Order of Worship will have the Scripture Lessons read by MLC seniors, hymns and the Message by Rev. Mark Zarling, President of Martin Luther College. Our Open Bible Choir has been asked to join them on one choir piece!

I'm sure this will be a meaningful Worship Service! Please invite your friends and family to join us. A free-will offering will be collected.



Council Activities

The Church Council met on February 20th, 2020.

Items discussed included:

1. Agreement to transfer \$3,793.00 to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign from undesignated Memorial Fund dollars.
2. Agreement to move the Stock Account to Fidelity from Wells Fargo to eliminate the \$175.00 yearly administrative fee.
3. Appointed Bill Sigurdson as Financial Secretary for 2020.
4. Approved a once a month cookout following the Saturday Church Service to encourage young families to attend.
5. Reviewed Job Description for half-time Staff Minister and WELS benefit programs and suggested compensation.
6. Approved requesting Staff Minister candidates from the District President
7. Set Congregational Call Meeting for Sunday, March 15th at 11:00 am.

Yours in Christ:
Les Stauske
Secretary

Call Meeting at Open Bible

On Sunday, March 15th at 11:00 am., a call meeting will be held in our worship sanctuary. At that time, we will receive a recommended list of candidates, we might call to fill the position of Part-time Staff Minister of Music and Education. This person will fill the void left in our music ministry by the departure of Judy Hainen, and the void in Bible study with our small groups, by the departure of Pastor Dale. Please ask God the Holy

Spirit, to lead the person we call, to accept this divine call, and join us soon in the ministry of Open Bible. Everyone is welcome to stay for this call meeting.

"Serving the Savior" This Month

This month we are featuring your Church Council.



Pictured in the front row going left to right are Les Stauske-Secretary, Greg Wendorf-President, Jim Orcutt-Vice President.

Pictured in the last row going left to right are Walt Farnsworth-Chair of Building and Grounds, Fred Hainen-Chair of Music and Worship and Pastor Schulz-ex officio.



Missing from the picture is Jim Duncan, Head Elder who was the Liturgist at Carriage House when the group picture was taken.

LWMS Lutheran Womens Missionary Society

I want to thank the ladies who have used their mission boxes to help support many mission projects that LWMS helps support. Your contributions through the mission boxes has been sent in along with our WinGS Mission donation to be used for the following missions. **Home**

Mission: Children’s Ministry Projects

- Project assists mission congregations in establishing a children’s ministry program, childcare center, or preschool.

World Missions: Pakistan Projects

- Project provides monetary support for Pakistani Sunday schools with supplies and refreshments along with helping the children to learn to read and write. The amount we sent was \$1000.

Just a reminder the LWMS North Florida Circuit Spring Rally is March 14th in Beverly Hills, Fl at St Paul's. We have several ladies who have signed up as able to drive so we will have transportation available for those who need it. I will be calling in the number attending on March 1st. Lunch is catered so they are requesting a number by March 1.

On another note, please save your Meditations when you are finished with them. I will be forwarding them to the Prison Ministries in New Ulm, MN for distribution to prisoners. These devotional guides are valued by the inmates. There will be a box on the LWMS table to deposit your Meditations in. I will put it out near the end of the quarter for the current guide, to collect up the next set to send.

If you have not had the chance to look at the brochure for the Wels Special Ministries called "Love in Action" please take one from the table. It explains the 8 areas in which they support people with special needs or in special circumstances. I hope you will pick one up, read it and see if Christ is calling you to support or work in one of these areas.

Last, please do not turn in any more pill bottles until further notice. I have still not been given the go ahead to send them to the Central Africa Medical Mission and I have run out of room to store them. We have about 400 waiting

to ship. Thank you to all who have turned in the bottles and I will let you know when I will be collecting them again.

LWMS Serving Christ together,
Peggi Carrier

Small Group Ministry

Wednesday in the Word:

Led by Pastor Mark Schulz **Will resume after Easter.**

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. March 10th 2:00 pm will be hosted by Jim & Sandy Fehlhaber for a study of Acts 21 and 22 "Paul’s arrested in Jerusalem." March 24th the hosts will be (*this could be you!*) The Bible Study will be on Acts 23 & 24 "Paul’s First Trial."

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson.



Rehearsal is 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
March 20th

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 (March 11th.)

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. The March meeting is scheduled for the 9th at 1:00pm. Study on Psalm 51.

Also: **SPLASH** will be taking a Singing River Boat Tour at Dunnellon on Friday, April 3rd at 10:00 am. Lunch will follow at the Blue Gator Tiki Bar & Restaurant. Open Bible members are welcome to join us. We will explore the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers for about 1 ½ hours. The captain will provide stories and music. Cost is \$15.00 per person for the boat ride. Lunch cost is on your own. Reservation is limited to 20 people. Fifteen dollars must be paid when you sign up. Please see Sandy Pawlowski.

BOB Breakfast: Band of Brothers:



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study. The group coordinators are Richard Raine and Pastor Rodger Dale. Next Bible Study will be Saturday, March 7th.

The Topic will be Daniel's Prayer for

His Nation. 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, March 8th & 22nd at 6:00 pm at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala.

Continuing with Battles of the Bible until March 22nd. We will choose our next Topic then. All are welcome to join, contact Alan Johnson if interested.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Study will be **Twelve Extraordinary Women** by John MacArthur. This study is full of fascinating information about these women and the unmistakable work of God's redemption plan in history through their lives. As we meet these women in Scripture and get to know more about their lives and character, they will motivate you, encourage you and inspire you with love for the God they trusted and served. **We meet Tuesdays at 2 p.m. at Open Bible.** Please contact Pam Johnson (352 208 1271) Lambteach@cox.net if you are interested in joining us.

Men of Leisure:

Led by: Dennis Duessler



Meeting on the second Friday of the month. Next meeting will be Friday, March 13th, 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.

Altar Guild: Leader: Mary Burel. If there is anyone interested in finding out more about the Altar Guild, Please contact Mary Burel.

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.

Fantastic Friday Game Day!

Every Friday from 1:00 – 4:00pm for fellowship and fun playing sheepshead, uchre, hand & foot, rumicube or bring a game to share and friends to play with. Facilitators: Carol Yahn, Sandy Pawlowski.

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 Lenten service) During Judy's



absence, Stacy Vance will help with directing the choir and Marolin Kuske will assist on the piano.

Caring for Caregivers

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.

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

On March 5th besides our usual sharing we will learn about Aging and senior care community resources in our area. This will include what is available, what it costs, and information about caregiving. You can begin checking it out at: www.caring.com. All past, present 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: This class will be offered when needed.

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.



“The Book of Hebrews”

Knowing Christ brings joy. Knowing Christ in a sinful world may bring pain. Will joy triumph over pain of persecution, or will persecution rob the Christian of faith and joy? This is the choice many early Christians had to face. For Christians today, the temptations may be different. The letter to the Hebrews presents the beauty of Christ and gives us strength not to forsake Jesus.

March 1st: Hebrews 3:7-4:13 Don't Forsake Jesus – true rest is found in Him

March 8th: No Bible Study. (MLC Choir will be here.)

March 15th: Hebrews 4:14-6:12 Don't Forsake Jesus-then you would have no High Priest and no sacrifice

March 22nd: Hebrews 6:13-7:28 Don't Forsake Jesus – the High Priest of a new order.

March 29th: Hebrews 8:1-9:10 Don't Forsake Jesus-He established the new covenant

Mornings with Mommy



They will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd and March 17th at 9:30 am. Jane Valley is the director

and if you are interested in helping her, please give her a call at 989-450-1937. We are expecting 8 – 10 children. Please contact Jane Valley if you have a child (up to age 5) that would like to attend.

Evangelism Team: Led by Pastor Schulz.

The Evangelism Team will have their March Meeting on Tuesday, March 17th at 3:00 pm. This group gets together to do some brainstorming to come up with ideas on how to attract visitors and possible new members to attend Open Bible Worship Services and activities. If you are a person that has a Talent for this, please speak to Pastor Schulz.

WinGS: will be bringing Baskets for a silent auction at the District Rally on March 14th. If you wish to contribute new items to include in one of the baskets, please bring and place on Mission table in the Fellowship Hall. If you are planning on going to the rally/Meeting, please sign-up on the sheet located on the counter by the entrance to the Fellowship Hall by March 1st!

Women's Annual Spring Luncheon

The Annual Women's Spring Luncheon will be held on Friday, March 27th at 12:00 pm. This year the theme is: "Blooming for Jesus Spring Luncheon" There will be delicious salads and a fashion show by Anthony's! Please sign-up if you are attending and the number of guests and also please consider signing up to bring a salad or dessert and to help clean-up.

Annual Fishing Trip

The annual fishing trip is set for Tuesday, March 24th, 2020. Leaving Villages at 4:30 am and returning approx. 7:00 pm. Cost is \$250.00 per person (which includes the cost and tip for the crew.) Please contact Jim Orcutt at 770-289-0366.



Choir Tour Season – Wisconsin Lutheran College – Choir Scholarship

Greetings from Milwaukee and Wisconsin Lutheran College. March is the season of spring break and college choir tours. WLC has been blessed to sing at Open Bible twice in recent years and it remains at the top of the list as a favorite place to sing. This spring tour we are traveling through Arizona and Southern California but hope to return to Florida soon.

2019/20 marks the first year of the Open Bible sponsored WLC choir scholarship. The idea for the scholarship was generated and funded following their 2018/2019 performance at Open Bible. It is the first of several church/choir partnerships WLC is forming to support students who volunteer to spend their spring break touring and performing. Thank you, Open Bible.

The scholarship this school year was awarded to Rebecca Holm a senior Music Education major at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

A short video thank you to Open Bible and introduction to the recipient is available at this link: wlc.edu/openbible (type into your web browser and you will be redirected to the YouTube link)

For more information on Wisconsin Lutheran College please contact Jeff Weber – Jeff.Weber@wlc.edu

Caregiver Center

Check out the new “Caregiver Center” in the Fellowship Hall near the mailboxes. Help yourself to a packet with information about caregiving, dementia and hospice.

Do you want to know more about dementia? There is going to be a Dementia Resource Expo at Ocala on Wednesday, March 18, 10:00 am—3:00 pm. See the poster on the bulletin board or in the packets on the table in the Caregiver Center. Also check out the books on the table.

Did you know there are three hospice providers in Sumter and Lake Counties? They are Compassionate Care, Cornerstone and Vitas. Learn more at www.medicare.gov/hospicecompare. Join the group Caring for Caregivers on the first Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm. We exist to support one another and often have speakers. Invite a caregiver you know. We have guests almost every month. Anyone is welcome.

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.

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, now through April, 2020: 4:00pm.

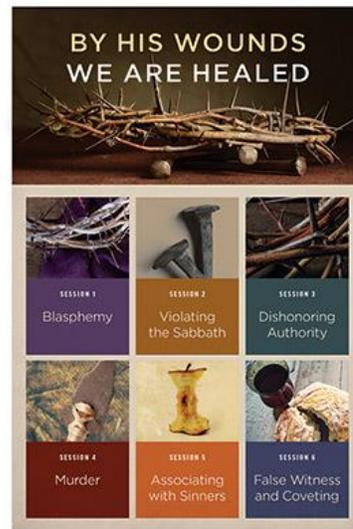
Join us on Saturday for a Worship Service.

This 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. 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 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.

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesday's at 5:30 pm.



The Theme this year is **"By His Wounds We Are Healed."** Each Wednesday will focus on different afflictions: March 4th "The Wounds of Violating the Sabbath" *Jesus is accused of*

violating the Sabbath.

March 11th "The Wounds of Dishonoring Authority" *we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross.*

March 18th "The Wounds of Murder" *the wounds of murder and violence we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross.*

March 25th "The Wounds of Adultery" *and unfaithfulness we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross.*

April 1st: "The Wounds of Stealing" *and dishonesty we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross.*

If you have never attended our Wednesday Soup Suppers, you are in for

a treat! Wednesdays 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 at 5:30pm.

March 4th: Choir & Handbells,
March 11th: 466A Group,
March 18th: Elders & Council,
March 25th: SPLASH,
April 1st: WinGS

Bible Studies at the Senior Living Facilities

Pastor Rodger Dale conducts Bible Studies at the Senior Living Facilities that surround our church. All are welcome to join in on these dates and times:

10:00 am at Carriage House every Wednesday.

11:00 am at The Willows every Wednesday.

1:00 pm at Buffalo Crossing on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays.

Topics for Senior Residences:

March 3 and 4—People who Met Jesus: “A Canaanite Woman Pleads for her Daughter”

March 11—People Who Met Jesus: “Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man”

March 17 and 18—People Who Met Jesus: “Jesus Heals Many Lepers”

March 25—People Who Met Jesus: “A Desperate Father Seeks Help”



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

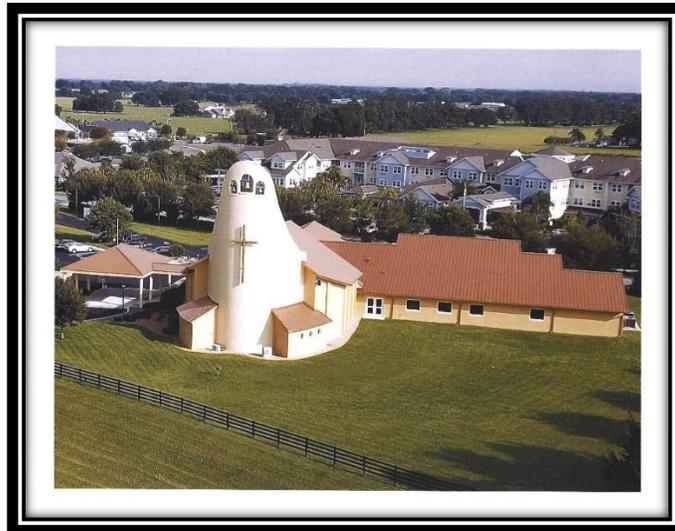


Happy Birthday

Christian Schmolke – 2
 Stan Cobb - 2
 James Malone – 5
 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
 Richard Raine - 25
 Greg Wendorf – 26
 Chris Moellring – 27
 Jean Butts – 27

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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 103.5FM
“The Shepherd.” Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am



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