



NEWSLETTER



May 2016

Volume 11, No. 5

From the Pastor

Washed Clean on the Inside and Outside

The Lord works in mysterious ways to accomplish wonderful things at Open Bible. A recent example is how the outside of our church property needed a little extra TLC. The sidewalks had mold taking hold on them and the trees on the property needed some edging and mulch. So what happens? An evangelism call takes place. A discussion takes place out in a garage. As the conversation continues, the prospect speaks about a Power Washer he has for sale. Could the church use something like this? Our Building and Grounds staff is notified. The initial response is, "Electric is better than gas, let's do more research." Sounds like a golf cart discussion. But then one of our building and grounds guys says, "the man who owns the power washer owes me a favor, Pastor. I'll see if I can borrow it for the church." Long story short, our sidewalks are now power washed, the trees in the parking lot area are edged and have mulch, and the family that let us use the Power washer came to worship at Open Bible for the very first time on April 24th. Another amazing story. Stories like this happen all the time at Open Bible. The Lord is guiding our congregation in doing what is good and pleasing in his sight.

I am overjoyed to see how so many of you help where you can at Open Bible. Whether it be

by regular worship attendance, being an usher, greeter, attending to the altar, helping out in the kitchen, making humbags and blankets for the sick or disadvantaged, singing in the choir, or participating in one of our small groups, you people care about your church. You love your church. More importantly, you love your Savior, who has washed you clean on the inside and outside. "Love as I have loved you."

That is his call to us.

Our church is picking up momentum once again. In early May I will be spending a few days, with a former colleague in ministry, Pastor Ron Muetzel, who will help give our congregation some guidance for its fall capital funds drive. Our long range planning committee will be expanding its numbers of participants in the spring, do more brainstorming, put out a survey, and eventually develop a 3-10 year ministry plan. Questions need to be answered. "How will we best utilize the three extra classrooms"? What additional ministries can we offer in them? Will we offer more worship service opportunities in the next 3 years? Will we look to reach younger families? If so, will we call a second pastor or staff minister one day to oversee children and family ministry? Or will we keep our focus on retirees alone in our community? What about our music program? How could it be expanded?

Sometimes I feel like Joshua, who was apprehensive and a bit fearful for the future. But that same Lord, who came to Joshua to calm him down and reassure him, comes to me and you and

says, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." With God backing us, we just need to trust his leading, and pray for his guidance, and Open Bible will continue to do great things for the Kingdom of God. Go Open Bible!

Open Bible 90 Day Challenge

Join Pastor Schulz in Reading the New Testament

1. Start reading the Bible today -- there is no better time, and there's no reason to wait.
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are great, but feel free to use any time that works consistently for you.
3. Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not simply to accomplish your next reading. Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!
4. Any questions you have, email Pastor Schulz at pastoropenbible@gmail.com

May 1st - John 14; John 15; John 16
May 2nd - John 17; John 18; John 19
May 3rd - John 20; John 21; Acts 1
May 4th - Acts 2; Acts 3; Acts 4
May 5th - Acts 5; Acts 6; Acts 7
May 6th - Acts 8; Acts 9; Acts 10
May 7th - Acts 11; Acts 12; Acts 13
May 8th - Acts 14; Acts 15; Acts 16
May 9th - Acts 17; Acts 18; Acts 19
May 10th - Acts 20; Acts 21; Acts 22
May 11th - Acts 23; Acts 24; Acts 25
May 12th - Acts 26; Acts 27; Acts 28
May 13th - Romans 1; Romans 2; Romans 3
May 14th - Romans 4; Romans 5; Romans 6
May 15th - Romans 7; Romans 8; Romans 9
May 16th - Romans 10; Romans 11; Romans 12
May 17th - Romans 13; Romans 14; Romans 15

May 18th - Romans 16; 1 Corinthians 1; 1 Corinthians 2
May 19th - 1 Corinthians 3; 1 Corinthians 4; 1 Corinthians 5
May 20th - 1 Corinthians 6; 1 Corinthians 7; 1 Corinthians 8
May 21st - 1 Corinthians 9; 1 Corinthians 10; 1 Corinthians 11
May 22nd - 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Corinthians 14
May 23rd - 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Corinthians 16; 2 Corinthians 1
May 24th - 2 Corinthians 2; 2 Corinthians 3; 2 Corinthians 4
May 25th - 2 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 6; 2 Corinthians 7
May 26th - 2 Corinthians 8; 2 Corinthians 9; 2 Corinthians 10
May 27th - 2 Corinthians 11; 2 Corinthians 12; 2 Corinthians 13
May 28th - Galatians 1; Galatians 2; Galatians 3
May 29th - Galatians 4; Galatians 5; Galatians 6
May 30th - Ephesians 1; Ephesians 2; Ephesians 3
May 31st - Ephesians 4; Ephesians 5; Ephesians 6

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been sharing information about worship, especially the Common Order, through bulletin inserts. We want to follow-up by a series of Newsletter articles about the **Invisible Mysteries of Christian worship**. The first mystery is that Christian worship takes us into the presence of the Triune God. In so many ways God is a mystery to us. When we try to probe the Trinity, it becomes more and more mysterious or beyond our understanding. But even though much about God is beyond our understanding, we are assured that we may draw near to him in the Name of Jesus. We are assured that the invisible Spirit is working through the Word and Sacraments to create and nurture faith. We know this from the Scriptures,

but also from the results in our own lives and in the church as a whole.

The next time you come to a worship service pay attention to all the things you can see. You will see a crucifix reminding us that God became man to offer the perfect sacrifice for our sins. You will see banners that reinforce the theme of the season. You will see people you know and pray for. All the things you perceive with your senses are important. However, also be aware of what you do not see, the presence of the almighty, all-gracious God, who comes to us with his peace and whose Spirit is working to build up our faith. The first invisible mystery is that we are in the presence of God; he is mysteriously working within us. With Peter we say, "It is good, Lord, to be here."

Early Bird Bible Studies

Sunday's 8:00-9:00 A.M.
April 10th - May 29th

Hard Sayings of Jesus

Have you ever read some of the words of Jesus in the New Testament, and wondered, "What did He really mean by those words? I'm confused." This Bible study will examine some of Jesus' more controversial or confusing statements and help reveal the profound truth they contain. These 8 complete lessons will give you a better comprehension and added confidence as you read the Gospels on your own.

May 1st: Unless You Hate Your Father and Mother
May 8th: Be Like Snakes
May 15th: Pearls Before Swine and Bread to Dogs
May 22nd: Words from A Hard Place
May 29th: Hard Sayings: So That We Won't Hear?

Sunshine Committee

GOOD NEWS for the "Sunshine Committee"

As Christians we all want to show Love to One another and the Sunshine Committee is a Great way to accomplish this. Twenty-Seven members have volunteered to serve this year! Thank You!

The GOOD NEWS is that we still have four (4) two week time slots available for The Villages/Leesburg which are June 1-15 and June 16-30, August 16-31 & September 16-30. We also have six (6) months available for the Ocala area, they are June, July, August, November and January 2017 & February 2017.

Please contact Jim Johnson (352-753-0394) or Dan Blaho (352-561-4840) if you can help during any of these times.

Jim Johnson & Dan Blaho, Co-Chairman

Small Group Ministry

Summerhill Seekers: Will meet again in September.

Game Nights: Game Night will continue in May. Please bring your favorite game to play, friends and a snack to pass. The date is Friday, May 6th from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

466AAA Topic: Take Two – 19 Minute Bible Studies with the Messiah! This group will meet twice a month at the home of Ron and Diane Brutlag. Keep an eye on your email for the dates.

Book Club: Will begin again in September. Facilitator: Pastor Schulz

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study- Tuesdays 1:00pm at Open Bible. Pam Johnson is the leader of this study. The Ladies Bible Study will continue through May 24th. The Topic (8 lessons) is Jesus' I AM statements. The majority of which are found in the Gospel of John. We will look at the context of each statement and listen to Jesus' powerful words. Jesus- His life and work- is the heart of the gospel message. A study of these statements will define who Jesus claimed to be and reveal to us the many facets of his mercy and love.

Defenders: (Led by Ken Wells and Bill Sigurdson) There is a shoot being planned in Ocala for Friday, May 13th . and at the Gun Range on SR44 in Leesburg., Thursday May 26th at 11:00am. This group meets The group shoots from 100-150 rounds. The cost is \$10.00 if you have your own ammunition and targets. Once the group completes their shooting, they have a time for prayer as they bring requests to God to protect our soldiers, and to continue to bless America. Then, they head off for lunch. Ladies are welcome to join this group!

SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him)

ATTENTION SINGLE PEOPLE:

Sunday, May 8th 2:00pm. Going to see "Brigadoon" pat the Mellon Patch Players in Leesburg.

Fellowship Group: (led by Joe & Paula Malec, Dan & Karen Pearson)

Our next group activity will be a Potluck & game night. The date is Friday, May 20th from 6:00 to 8:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Pearson or Paula Malec.

Men of Leisure: (Led by Dennis Duessler.) Enjoy 19 Minutes Bible Study: Take a look at the parables and some special stories of the Bible. Next meeting, Friday, May 13th at 8:30am. Location: Perkins Restaurant on 466 near Walmart.

North County Group: (Led by Alan Johnson) The North Country's Bible Study will resume in September.

Fore-Giving Friday Golfers:

Every Friday afternoon, a group of "Fore-Giving Golfers" from Open Bible plays on one of The Villages Executive courses. The location varies, but the friendliness does not. If you are a beginner, a hacker or an old duffer, we invite you couples or singles to join us. Sandy Fehlhaber jim.fehlhaber@gmail.com, puts in the request every Monday evening. She will need your ID# and email address.

Happy Hearts-Happy Hands Handiwork Meeting Friday, May 6th from 9-12:00pm. This group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also if you have knitting, crochet or embroidery you are working on, join the group for fellowship as you work on your project!

Women of Open Bible

Our end of season lunch will be held on Wednesday, May 11th at Arnold Palmer Country Club at noon. All women are invited and are asked to sign-up if you are attending. See the sheet in the kitchen pass thru. This group will meet again in September.

Wednesday in the Word

Join us for a dramatic 8 week Bible study beginning on Wednesday April 6th from 5:00-6:00 P.M. It is entitled, "Foundations".

Today, possibly more than at any time in America's history, a culture detached from God and willingly ignorant of His hand in creation and world events needs Jesus. But the church is not nearly as effective in reaching the lost as it was only a generation ago. There is a foundational reason.

May 4th & May 11th

1 Peter 3:15 says that we must always be ready to defend the truth of the Bible. But does the idea of being “ready” make your heart beat fast with fear? In these two segments, Ken Ham shares proven ideas and the basics of apologetics to affirm the truth of the Bible in our modern age. This presentation will embolden you to share your faith with others!

May 18th & 25th

Some ministers tell their congregations that death is our friend. But God designed a perfect world-no death, no pain. Adam’s sin brought death and suffering. Our world is now in need of restoration, and one day death will be vanquished forever!



Congregation Meeting

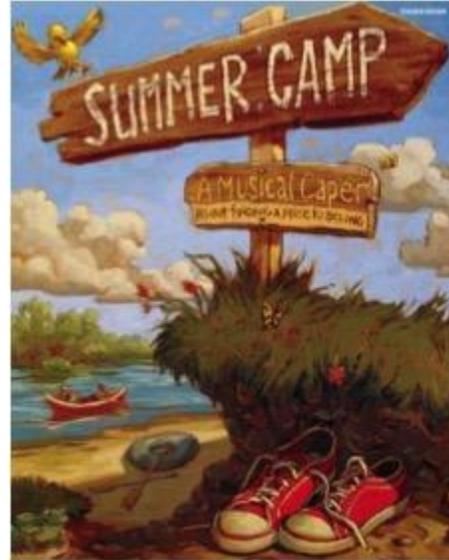
The Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, May 29th at 11:00am.

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 2016 Congregational meeting to sign the “voter registration book” (if you have not already done so). The book will be located on the friendship table Sundays May 15th – May 29th .

King of Kings Kids

SUMMER CAMP AT OPEN BIBLE



On Monday, May 16th at 11:00 AM., the children from **King of Kings Lutheran School in Maitland** will be presenting a musical at the Carriage House, located directly behind Open

Bible Lutheran Church. Some 50 children and 10 adult chaperones will make the journey from Maitland, Florida, to perform this 40 minute musical. Following the musical the children will come over to Open Bible for a gourmet lunch of hot dogs, and other goodies.

The Kids always do an AMAZING Job and work so hard. Please invite your friends to join you at the Carriage House for the performance.

Be prepared to see Bugs on Parade, Corny Camp Skits, the Morning Routine and so much more. A FREE WILL OFFERING BOX will be available on a table outside our worship sanctuary the next few weeks as well as at the Carriage House on the day of the performance. Please consider giving a gift to this Christian Day School whether you attend the concert or not. It's really wonderful to have a WELS school so close. Checks that are made out to Open Bible, and placed in the box, will be forwarded by an individual check (all checks or cash totaled) from our church to King of Kings.

Happy Anniversary



Bob & Marge O'Connell – 1
Skip & Jutta Owens – 2
Marvin & Pat Krahn – 11
Fred & Loreli Aguda – 14
Russ & Ruth Niermeyer – 28

We Believe...

In an age of anxiety, we believe that real peace comes from Jesus Christ.

In an age of confusion, we believe that the Bible is the word of God, without error.

In an age of doubt, we believe that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

In an age of guilt, we believe that Jesus died on the cross to remove the power of sin from our lives.

In an age of skepticism, we believe that God is at work in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

In an age of despair, we believe God's promises to heal and transform us.

In an age of violence, we believe that God calls us to embody his love in the world.

In an age of constant change, we believe in the unchanging Holy Trinity-Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Happy Birthday



Doris Schlicht – 2
Mel Parker - 2
Bill Gebhard – 5
Jutta Owens – 6
Ron Brutlag – 9
Patricia McCartin – 12
Adrianna Thise – 19
Tom DeWitz – 21
Mary Helen Schultz – 21
Joe Malec – 22
Dave Bliss – 23
Ina Taylor – 24
Joan Henkel - 25
Stacy Vance – 27

