



Newsletter

May, 2017

Volume 12 No. 5

From the Pastor

Unnecessary Crying

by Pastor Schulz

Crying can be very good for the human system. But there are times when crying is unnecessary. On Easter Mary Magdalene cried unnecessarily. Twice she was asked: "Why are you crying?" once by the angels at the open tomb and shortly thereafter by Jesus himself.

Mary was looking for Jesus. Her problem was that she was looking for a dead Jesus. Neither the angels nor Jesus knew of a dead Savior. The man she supposed to be the gardener was the living Jesus. The resurrected Jesus stood at her side, and there was then no longer any reason for tears. Jesus Lives! As soon as Mary saw the risen Christ, all tears were gone. With Jesus living, there is no reason for tears.

If our life is a life without Christ, there is every reason for tears. If Jesus is still in the grave, we have reason to cry. There is no hope, no forgiveness, no salvation.

But the living Jesus calls to us, giving us the complete assurance that He is alive. Our Savior lives!

There is no need for tears. There is only joy and hope in the living Christ. In his presence there is only peace.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for taking away the tears of despair and giving us the joy of our salvation. Amen.

Building Update

Last Wednesday and Thursday, all the furniture, books, and computer equipment were removed from the three rooms near our fellowship

area, and placed inside the pod outside of the church. Our secretary Karen, managed to preserve her desk, computer, and other office essentials. She now has her temporary office in the fellowship hall between the Ladies room and the kitchen. She will be able to greet you immediately as you enter the doors of the church. She never has to wonder again who is coming into the church. In addition, as you enter church, Pastor Schulz has a temporary office in the room located on the right side of the altar. If you need him, feel free to enter church, and knock at the door.

During the first week of May, renovation work will begin on the three vacated rooms. Plans are to make three offices with the existing space. There will be a larger office for our secretary and pastor, as well as a room for an additional staff worker. For the time being, this third room will be used by our money counters and Mike Villemure.

The trusses should be arriving in mid-May at which time outside construction will continue.

Professional Recording For Open Bible

The church council gave the ok for the purchase of a professional recording system for our Sunday broadcasts on 89.5 FM. Pastor Schulz had been using his IPAD, and the sound quality was not as good as it could be. Now, the sound quality is superior. The whole system cost \$299.00.

President's Message

Open or Closed Communion

The Lord's Supper was established by our Lord Christ Jesus at his last Passover meal, as he was to be the fulfillment of the Passover Promise. He was the unblemished Lamb of God to be sacrificed for our sins, once for all. This Sacrament was established to help unify his body, the church, into

one Spirit. It was also established for believers as a personal and tangible sign of our connection to Christ and his forgiveness of our sins. God's Word states this in many areas.

The subject of open communion was not even on the radar 100 years ago. Closed communion was a readily accepted and practiced procedure throughout Christendom. (Except, possibly, in those circles where the body and blood of Christ is not recognized as being present, or for that matter, the forgiveness of sins, in this Sacrament.) 1Cor 11: 26 – 32.

When new ideas are put forth by "men" within the church, or old ones keep resurfacing, we must always search Scripture to compare with what God has written and if they agree with the Word of God. God's Word is our guide: So, the question is asked what purpose would open communion serve other than to diminish its importance as a Sacrament of Christ's body and blood? We must always ask why a change should be made as well as what is the impetus pushing for change? (The Bible is old and doesn't fit in our modern world; All of it is not the Word of God, there are a lot of areas that are just man's ideas; We need to be more open and accepting of all people and new ideas.) If God's word is undermined like this, where else can we go; Man's wisdom?? 2 Ti 3:16 -17, 4:1 – 4 " All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. _____ I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in and out of season; rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. For a time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

Historically, the early Christian church was persecuted, therefore baptisms and the Lord's

supper were performed in some secrecy and only believers were allowed to partake. As Christianity became accepted, the practice of closed communion was continued with vigor, because it was recognized as a Biblical directive for the protection and strengthening of the believer and the unity of the Church. (1 Cor 11: 26 – 32) There was no question in the early Church that the bread in the Sacrament is the body of Christ and that the wine is the blood of Christ and that the personal forgiveness of sins was received through the Sacrament by each truly repentant believer. Later, the Roman Catholic church carried this a step further,(right or wrong) by instituting the confessional prior to partaking of the Lord's supper. If a parishioner failed to go to confession they were not allowed to partake of the Sacrament. This placed more emphasis on the preparation for communion and the repentant aspect of our preparation. (1 Cor 11: 26 – 32) "----- whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord." This repentant aspect of receiving Holy Communion has fallen away significantly in the ever changing world view of Christendom in general.

The practice of confessing sins has not fallen away completely as most Lutheran churches , as far as I am aware, still start each service with a general confession in order to come into the Lord's presence and encourages the parishioner to examine themselves, (judge yourselves) prior to partaking of the Lord's supper. (Pg 156 in the front of our current hymnal.)

The other important aspect of partaking in the body and blood of Christ is confessing unity of teaching with your fellow communicants. This display of unity so often spoken of in the Scriptures: includes such things as believing in the inerrancy of the Bible as the true Word of God; in the Lord's Supper, we receive the true body and blood of Christ as well as the personal forgiveness of our sins in a very tangible way. Thus, receiving

the Lord's Supper with your fellow believers is also a way of expressing oneness of faith in these truths, -- a show of unity as believers in God's infallible Word. (1 Cor 10: 17) "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we partake of the one loaf."

Why do we continue to have Bible information classes for those prospects who desire to become part of our fellowship? It is to express our beliefs in a concise way, leading the prospect through the Scripture based the truths of God's Word. Once these truths are understood and accepted, the prospect is received into membership. This goes a long way to maintain the unity of the Spirit in our body of believers. Whose good are we looking out for if we would accept an open communion practice? Particularly in this age where the "Christian" churches have so many different teachings on these matters. Can anyone show a Scriptural authority for this position? (Not that I am aware of.) It has been lamented many times by Pastors and laymen alike,(jokingly of course) that if it wasn't for the practice of closed communion, our membership would grow by leaps and bounds. We are only fooling ourselves if we are tempted to travel down this path. What part of the Scriptures would be under attack next: The Deity of Christ? The acceptance of active homosexuality as just another life style? The role of men and women as directed by God? Creation? The inerrancy of The Scriptures? The "choice" of murdering the unborn? Just look around at the other Christian denominations who have followed this path. Do the previously mentioned items look or sound familiar?

For me, I prefer that we stay with " all " of God's Word as our guide for life's journey through this valley of the shadow of death. (Jos 24:15) " ____ But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Nowhere in the Scriptures does it say that you are to serve the Sacrament of Holy Communion to anyone who enters your worship service, in fact it suggests just the opposite. No

apologies are necessary when you are looking out for the good of those you serve. Closed communion is one of the best ways to maintain the unity of believers.

Your servant in Christ our Lord,

Dan Blaho

Mike's Corner

Care Ministries Opportunity to Serve!

Buffalo Crossing and the Willows have offered us the opportunity to serve at their residences. They are looking for individuals to come and join in their various activities with the residents. Most activities last only one hour or less, and you can serve just once a month, once a week, or however often you choose. The current volunteers have reported that they enjoy their time with the residents. There will be a current calendar of activities in the friendship hall for you to look over. Your participation will make a difference in the residents' enjoyment. The residents are very sociable and grateful to have volunteers come and make their day more special. We are building relationships with the staff and residents which can lead to changed hearts. Many of these residents are isolated and rarely have visitors so you will make a difference. When we serve in these special ways we are serving our Lord from the heart. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!!!.

Mike may be contacted by email at villemmj@mlc-wels.edu, or by phone at (352) 693-5380 and (507) 261-8610.

Mike Villemure

Who's Who at Open Bible

Let's meet Matt & Dorothy Draeger



Dorothy and Matt Draeger met as students at Wisconsin Lutheran College through a mutual friend.

Dorothy had moved around the Midwest area as a pastor's kid and finally settled in the Appleton area of Wisconsin. Matt grew up in Kenosha, Wisconsin. They married in June of 2008 and then moved to Florida in May 2009. Moving to Summerfield in 2012, in March they bought a home. They have 2 little girls, Elise, 3 years old, and Amelia, 1 year old.

Matt is employed as an Information Technology Coordinator for Brookdale Senior Living. Dorothy has worked at various jobs from childcare to secretary but currently is caring for their girls, Elise and Amelia. She is currently involved with helping get the Mornings with Mommy program started at Open Bible. The Draegers found Open Bible through Matt's parents, Linda and Del Draeger.

Their life is kept very busy between house repairs, family get togethers and birthdays. In their spare time Matt has recently gotten into gardening and home improvement projects. Dorothy enjoys writing, crocheting, and sewing.

Dorothy and Matt Draeger are possibly our youngest members and we look forward to seeing their family grow and getting to know them better.

Written by: Peggi Carrier

Small Group Ministry

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

These are a group of Open Bible members from the Ocala area who meet twice a month on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00 pm. They will meet Sunday, MAY 28TH at the home of Alan and Pam Johnson or Dave & Kim Mottl. Topic: the "Book of Acts" using the People's Bible.

SPLASH

Single People Loving and Serving Him

Led by Mike Villemure

Facilitated by: Peggi Carrier, Ina Taylor

SPLASH!

The next SPLASH Bible study is on Monday, May 8th at 1 pm. The Topic: Our God of Politics. After the study we will have a social. ALL ARE WELCOME to attend. In the meantime feel free to contact Peggi, Ina or Mike.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson

The topic for the Tuesday afternoon Ladies is: "Hebrews 11" the heroes of faith chapter. They meet at 1:00pm at Open Bible. Please contact Pam if you are interested.

Men Of Leisure - Men's Breakfast Group

Led by Dennis Duessler

The group is discussing a Bible study booklet on some of the issues retired men and men in general face.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 19th at the Bob Evans Restaurant 2199 Parr Drive, The Villages (on the corner of CR466 & Southern Trace). The starting time is 8:30am and the Topic of discussion will be a 19 Minute Bible Study.

Game Nights

Facilitator: Carol Yahn

Game Night last night Friday, will be May 5th from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Bring friends, games and a snack to pass!

Happy Hearts---Happy Hands Handiwork

Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski

New Meeting Date: Friday, May 19th

Meets on the Third Friday of each month at church from 9:00---12:00 PM. Group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also does knitting, crochet, and embroidery.

LIFT (Ladies in Faith Together)

Facilitator: Genie Selvey

Bible study various ladies homes on Mondays at 1:00pm. The Topic is the series called "That The World May Know" by Ray VanderLaan, Please contact Genie Selvey if you would be interested in joining this Bible Study. Her phone# 507-469-0546.

Journey With Jesus

Led by Judy Hainen

Journey with Jesus Bible Study will continue on Mondays through the 15th of May at 9:15 am with Judy Hainen. This study meets at various homes. Topic is Philippians. Contact Judy for details

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.

Defenders

Led by Bill Sigurdson & Ken Wells

This group meets twice a month to shoot 50---100 rounds at one of these two places: The Gun Club off 44 near Leesburg and also R/D Tactical Solutions 1031 NE 16th St. in Ocala.

Ken and Bill supply everyone with targets or you can buy one for \$1.25. In Ocala, your spouse can shoot for just \$6.00. The next shoot is Thursday May 11th in Ocala at 1:30pm. Then on Thursday, May 25th on Hwy 44 in Leesburg. Meet at 10:30am.

Following the activity, the group has lunch at Beef O' Brady's and devotes time to pray for our country and military.

WinGS

Led by Mary Helen Schultz

The Women of Open Bible meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month. May 10th will be our last official meeting until September. At this meeting we will install our new officers. We will have a group Lunch in June or July.

Elections were held at our April meeting and here are the unanimous results: President: Jane Valley, Vice President Mary Helen Schultz and Carol Benrud as Secretary. Karen Pearson remains as Treasurer because her term is for 4 years.

More people are needed to sign-up for the Coffee Hostesses. Please see the sign-up sheet located on the kitchen pass-thru.

Mornings with Mommy



Are they learning or playing?

Children love to play they naturally pour all their attention into play activities. When we can guide that energy with educational themes and group interaction, amazing things happen. And at Mornings with Mommy, you will be there to share in your child's discovery!

Mornings with Mommy isn't preschool, and it isn't childcare, it's something different. Mornings with Mommy is a fun and easy way for you to enjoy activities

with your 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! Moms can mingle with each other and enjoy activities with each other and enjoy activities with their children including: arts and crafts, sensory tables, flannel stories and story time, music, educational toys, and a snack. The program includes all snacks and activities.

Mornings with Mommy will have a booth to promote the start-up in October. They will be at the Brown's Country Market Customer Appreciation Day on Saturday, May 6th from 10:00 – 3:00pm.

Brown's Country Market is located a few blocks away from Open Bible Church. The address is 13992 N. US Hwy 301, Oxford, FL.

Did You Know?

Coffee Host/Hostesses: Please sign-up to help with the coffee/fellowship hour. The sign-up sheet is located in the Kitchen pass-thru. Thank you.

Can Collection: Bring your "crushed" & "rinsed" cans to church on the 1st Sunday of the month. Put your cans in the back of the red car parked out in front of church. Thank you from the Women of Open Bible.

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 2017 Flower Calendar has been placed to the right of the conference room door. Again 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

Bob & Marge O'Connell – 1
Skip & Jutta Owens – 2
Marvin & Pat Krahn – 11
Fred & Loreli Aguda – 14
Stan & Henrietta Cobb - 16
Russ & Ruth Niermeyer – 28



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
Henrietta Cobb - 27



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HITS FROM 50's TO PRESENT DAY

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017

11:00 AM

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352-350-1020



SONGS INCLUDE

"Rock Around the Clock"

"Yellow Submarine"

"Count On Me"

"Don't Bring Me Down"

AND MORE...

SEE *You* THERE →

Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Mark M Schulz

4671 Bellwether Lane

Oxford, FL 34484

352-753-9038, 989-525-5514

"Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known"

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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