



Newsletter



May 2019

Volume 14 No. 5

From the Pastor "A Future Where We Reach More Souls For Christ" by Pastor Mark Schulz

As your pastor, I regularly make contact with Sunday guests, and try to find out reasons as to what they liked and didn't like about our worship services. Most of the time, they will tell me the people of Open Bible are very friendly, the message was very good, but they did not care for a strictly liturgical church where music was not upbeat and meaningful. They wanted more modern Christian music. It is true, when WELS or ELS members come down to Florida, most are looking for liturgical worship. They love our church. But the WELS has been declining in membership. Most WELS churches are either losing members or holding at the status quo. Open Bible is one of the less than 10% WELS churches that are still experiencing growth. The new generation of non-WELS people that are retiring in the Villages are used to non-liturgical worship and music that involves other instruments besides the organ. If we are going to reach these people, and have them come back for a second or third visit, we need to have a worship setting where they feel comfortable. Obviously, we will continue to preach the truth of God's Word, which will never change.

I could easily just coast my final years with you at Open Bible. That means I would not attempt to do anything that would raise your blood pressure. We would just keep doing what we have been doing liturgically. Or we

could make an attempt to reach out to the many souls who are more comfortable with a different format of worship. My suggestion is that we keep our liturgical service as always. That we keep our fellowship time together as always. But that we add an additional service on Sundays that is more contemporary. We could do this by having a liturgical service at 9:00 A.M. and a contemporary service at 11:00 A.M. Fellowship time would take place between our first and second services. The second service would utilize technology in worship. For years, I have been apprehensive to do anything that would take away from our beautiful altar area. We even sealed up the original descending screen since it was ill-placed, coming down right over the crucifix of Jesus. However, in the past few years, technology has improved. There are now new descending parallax screens, that could be placed up front at the right and left side of our sanctuary, that could be painted gold, and would only be down during the contemporary service. In the liturgical service, they would be lowered at the end of the service, when we watch the WELS connection video. The cost for the projectors and screens would be completely paid for from our Memorial Fund.

The Worship committee, Board of Elders, and Church Council are discussing this matter. Please share any thoughts you have with them. Remember, we are here to reach as many souls for Christ as possible before Jesus returns. We need to be concerned not just about our needs but the needs

of others. The apostle Paul says, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22) Worship format is adiaphora. It can change. In Africa, they have dancing and jumping around in worship. They have a non-liturgical service. Our missionaries are supportive of this worship format. But what must never change are the timeless truths of God's Word. I assure you, that will never change at Open Bible.

President's Message

Last month we examined planning for our future by investing wisely. For most of us this planning began at a very early age and progressed over many years of our life. If we were fortunate enough to be brought up in a Christian home, we were also instructed that what truly mattered was living a God pleasing life. Surly we all experienced change as we aged. The following article points out how times can get better with age as long as we keep things in their proper perspective and our eyes on God.

I hope you enjoy the following memories from the past:

I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night".....Age 5

I've learned that my dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either.....Age 7

I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again.....Age12

I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me....Age 15

I've learned that brushing my Childs hair is one of life's great pleasures.....Age 26
I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it.....Age 30

I've learned that you can make some one's day by simply sending them a little note.... Age 44

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on and it will be better tomorrow.....Age 48

I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours.....Age 49

I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills.....Age 52

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.....Age58

I've learned that life sometimes gives us a second chance.....Age 62

I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision...Age 66

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer.....Age 72

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.....Age 82

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch-holding hands, a

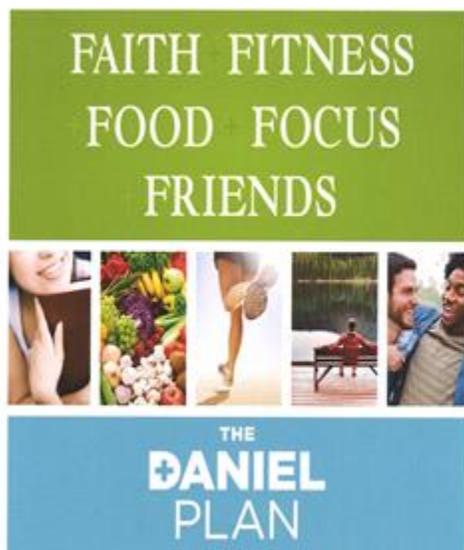
warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.....Age 90

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.....Age 92

Isn't it amazing how we change overtime? We move from being a young child to an aging adult with a totally different perspective on life. None of us know how much time we will have on this earth. Only God knows that. Yet we can enjoy each day we are given. We can and should live a life centered on serving our Lord, not because it is expected but rather out of gratitude for what He has done for us.

This past Easter season we once again experienced the caring, mercy, and Grace of our loving Heavenly Father. Let's show Him with our lives how eternally grateful we will always be.

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf



**The Daniel Plan
40 Days to a Healthier Life**

This six-session video based small group study is centered on five essentials that will launch your journey to health: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. God designed your body to be healthy and he provided everything you need to thrive and live an abundant life. The Daniel Plan small group study teaches simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your daily lifestyle. As Pastor of Open Bible Lutheran Church, I need to lose about 40 pounds to get my body back where it should be as the temple of the Holy Spirit. I have tried Weightwatchers, Atkins, and other plans, but all have eventually failed. Why I am leading this study? My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I need a lifestyle plan for health that incorporates God's Word. Anyone is welcome to join us for these studies, whether you are overweight or not.

Wednesday Nights: 7:00 P.M. for 7 weeks

May 1st: Guidelines of Group, Overview of Program, Distribution of Student Study Guides

May 8th: Faith: Nurturing Your Soul

May 15th: Food: Enjoying God's Abundance

May 22nd: Fitness: Strengthening Your Body

May 29th: Focus: Renewing Your Mind

June 5th: Friends: Encouraging Each Other

June 12th: Living the Lifestyle



LWMS A Home Mission Report

One of the great blessings of being the reporter for Open Bible is that I get to communicate with world missionaries and our home missions' pastors. I just received an email from Pastor William Dunn in response to the letter I sent with our monetary gift for his family. He shared that they just added their 4th child Kiara to the family on March 19th, and when they came home from the hospital there was our card and gift. His words were "it was a special surprise." After a few emails or cards, I feel like I have a stronger commitment to supporting them, praying for them and their mission field. I hope they begin to feel a connection to our congregation as well. He also sent pictures of his church, family and their history. I am adding the pictures and his letter to the book under Home Missions. I am including some excerpts from Pastor Dunn.

"My wife, Lauren, and I met at Martin Luther College. She was studying High School Spanish and I was on the pastor track. We got married and now have 4 kids, Aurora, Liam, Elena, and Kiara. Kiara was just born this March in the middle of Lent! Both she and my wife have been doing great! Time goes by so fast that I can't believe Kiara is already 4 weeks old. I have attached a few pictures of our family!

As far as our church, I was assigned to San Pedro in Milwaukee in 2016 to be the bilingual pastor. It has been a

wonderful place to reach out to the Hispanic and Spanish-speaking community on the near south-side of Milwaukee (It's a good thing my wife speaks Spanish as well!). We have Hispanic families from all over, but especially from Mexico and Puerto Rico. We have such a kind and welcoming group of believers here. Several years before I was assigned here it was decided that bilingual services would be the best way to serve the multigenerational Hispanic families in our church and community. I actually preach in Spanish and in English at the same time, translating myself as I go.

Our Spanish ministry is fairly young compared to the age of the church. St. Peter was started in Milwaukee in 1860. They survived the ups and downs of ministry over the past 160 years operating in German, then English, and now in Spanish and Karen as well. (I had never heard of the language of Karen or the people who spoke it. I went to the URL he suggested, and it was very interesting.) Here is some information about the Karen people - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_people

We have trilingual services several times a year incorporating all three languages. Our goal is to reflect our multiethnic community. Since I started, we have created a new mission statement - By reaching out to people of all backgrounds with the truth of God's Word, St. Peter Lutheran Church builds lives on Christ the Rock. We also have implemented a new 3-year ministry plan. There is so much potential here that I am very excited to be here for the future!

As far as projects or special needs, we have been trying to focus on family ministry. We are in the process of

planning to have childcare for the littlest ones during the services, especially for parents and families who may be visiting a church for the first time, but we have some renovations to work through to have a clean, safe space.

We are also working on establishing a regular youth group for our teens. So many of the students in our school and church do not have much money to put toward activities so our church subsidizes the cost to keep the cost of each monthly event to only \$5 per child. This enables families with more children to still participate as it keeps the cost lower. So far we have had a great turnout. For our January event, we had 35 kids go ice skating many of whom got to try it for the first time. We always have a devotion or Bible study as part of these events. In Christ, Pastor William Dunn"

Whether the pastors are serving millennials in inner city Atlanta, GA, tired and hurting souls in Detroit, MI, or the Spanish and Karen speaking people of St. Peter in Milwaukee, WI they are excited about the opportunities to share the gospel, reaching people here in the United States.

Peggi Carrier, LWMS Reporter

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.

Care for the Caregivers At Open Bible

Pastor Dale is inviting you to attend the next caregiver gathering on Thursday, May 2nd 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.

Women of Open Bible

Our last WinGS meeting was held on April 10th. We had an election of officers, and the new officers will be installed in September. Here are the results: President: Genie Selvey, Vice-President: Jane Valley, Secretary: Carol Benrud and Treasurer: Mary Helen Schultz. Thank you to all the hard work of the out-going officers.

Small Group Ministry

The following groups will meet in the fall:

466A Group Bible Study

Led by Pastor Rodger Dale

Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson

Saturday Duffers Golfing

Coordinator: Joe Malec

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork



Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski
The last meeting until September will be held on Friday, May 17th 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, May 10th 8:30 am. Meeting place will be Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466 near Buena Vista.

The Defenders

Led by: Bill Sigurdson
The Defenders will meet on Wednesday, May 15th. 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. May's meeting will be on the 8th 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 will gather on

Monday, May 13th at 1 PM.

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 Sunday, May 5th from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Meet at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. The Topic: "Bible Battles" by Stephen Leston.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson
The Ladies Bible Study will continue Tuesday's at 2:00 pm. The Bible Study will meet until May 14th. 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.

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.

Choir: Open Bible Choir will practice on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. They will meet May 8th & 15th and then begin again in September. Music Director is Judy Hainen.

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. May 4th 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: *May 4th: "Duel Citizenship: Can my pastor talk politics?"*



Fellowship Group
Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson, Joe & Paula Malec. The next activity will be a **Game night:** Friday, May 3rd at Open Bible. 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Bring your favorite game to play, a snack to share and friends for a fun fellowship night!

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.

A Special Thank you from Arline Kiewra: Thank you Pastor Schulz for visiting me at home and bringing me a walker. The walker made it less painful for me to get around. The Pastor is such a caring man and we are so lucky to have him at Open Bible.

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 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.

Memory Garden Progress:



Benches and tables have been installed to relax and enjoy the new Memory Garden. You may purchase a special granite block, and have it engraved as a

“memorial” to your loved ones. There is a sample block located by the sanctuary doors with a form that you can fill out with the information requested. Three benches have been installed around the edge of the Memory Garden and 5 tables with seats are on the patio area. A special part of the Memory Garden is the Cross. Here’s a picture of that:



Happy Anniversary

Bob & Marge O’Connell – 1
Marvin & Pat Krahn – 11
Fred & Loreli Aguda – 14
Stan & Henrietta Cobb – 16



Happy Birthday

Doris Schlicht – 2
Mel Parker - 2
Jutta Owens – 6
Richie Davis - 9
Patricia McCartin – 12
Tom DeWitz – 21
Mary Helen Schultz – 21
Joe Malec – 22
Dave Bliss – 23
Ina Taylor – 24
Charles Christensen - 24
Joan Henkel - 25
Stacy Vance – 27
Henrietta Cobb - 27

**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

The students from
King of Kings Lutheran School

presents

Pirates!
The Musical

Monday, May 13

11:00 am

Buffalo Crossings
3890 Woodridge Dr.
The Villages, FL 32159

See you there



A collection will be taken for the students from King of Kings Lutheran School. Please make your check payable to King of Kings and place it in the wooden box located in the welcome center. Cash is also accepted.

The WinGS group will be providing lunch for the kids after their performance.

Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Mark M Schulz

4671 Bellwether Lane

Oxford, FL 34484

352-753-9038, 989-525-5514

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.