



Newsletter



May 2018

Volume 13 No. 5

From the Pastor by Pastor Mark Schulz

Over the next few weeks, Jane Valley and I will be visiting six to eight families, who participated in our Mornings with Mommy class at Open Bible. Jennifer Schlegel will be setting up the appointments for us. When we visit these families, we will tell them about our fall program for Mornings with Mommy, the possibility for a summer Sunday School, and share with them the salvation plan. In addition, we will also see if there are any physical clothing needs or other needs they may have for their families. At this point, we are not sure what direction the Lord wants us to go in regard to family ministry. Larry Hershfield, director of Healthy Families, in Sumter and Marian County will be meeting with me during the first week of May. He oversees some 100 families in Sumter and Marian County. It is my hope that Larry will allow us to contact the moms in the program, and invite them to our fall session, led by Jane Valley and Jennifer Schlegel. Our long-range planning committee recommended last November that we continue to explore family ministry, and that is what we are attempting to do.

Another interesting development is an attempt to reach out to the residents of Fenney. One of my grade school classmates, Doug Martin and his wife Kathy, are buying a house in Fenney. They plan to spend the winters down in Florida and their summers in Tawas, Michigan. I have run the idea by Doug and his wife about having a small group

Bible study at their home. They were positive on the idea. So perhaps a door is opening for us to start a congregation down there. We will continue to ask the Lord for wisdom and guidance in where he wants us to go with His Word.

Our outreach to the independent living homes is thriving. Pastor Dale informed me that he had 12 residents participate in his devotional study at the Willows on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 9:00 A.M. while he has had 6 participants in his Buffalo Crossing Bible study on the 1st and third Mondays of the month at 1:00 P.M. Our Carriage house and Steeplechase services average around 8 participants.

Carriage House is conducted on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10:30 A.M. and Steeplechase is every Sunday at 11:30 A.M. Our new golf cart is providing rides to any interested residents from Buffalo Crossing and the Willows on Sunday mornings to church and back. Our drivers are equipped with Open Bible hats, shirts, and fluorescent vests.

Our Sunday morning radio broadcast should finally be on at the right time. We had signed an agreement for the 11:05 A.M. to 11:30 time slot, but the last two weeks the broadcast has been coming on at 11:15 A.M. The station apologized, gave us a discount, and said the computer glitch should be fixed. The sound quality of the audio has been excellent, and it seems that everyone in the Villages can tune in 103.5 FM or 720 AM.

As anyone can see, Open Bible is an outreach-oriented congregation. God has provided us many opportunities, and we don't want to miss any of them.

Thank you to everyone for your support to the ministry of Open Bible.

President's Message

The Easter season has come and gone but God's great plan for all mankind is and always will be right there in front of us. We have been taught to trust Him and his word in everything we see and do. That certainly can be challenging as our sinful nature wants us to question those things that seem to be difficult to truly understand. But since the creation of the universe as we know it, God has always been there for us and told us not to worry about things beyond our control. Time and again He has demonstrated some truly amazing examples of his complete control over everything.

A good friend recently sent me the following e-mail that demonstrates God's great control of everything in our world. I hope you enjoy the parts I chose to share as much as I did.

When God solves our problems, we have faith in His abilities. When God doesn't come right out and solve our problems He has faith in our abilities. One may observe God's great accuracy in the hatching of eggs ... those of the Canary in 14 days; those of the Barnyard Hen in 21 days; Eggs of Ducks and Geese in 28 days; those of the Mallard in 35 days; Eggs of the Parrot and the Ostrich in 42 days. (Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!)

See God's wisdom in the making of an Elephant ... The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction, no other quadruped is so made. God planned that this animal would have a huge body... too large to

live on two legs. For this reason, He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily. The Horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. A Cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.

How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation! Each Watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind. Each Orange has an even number of segments. Each ear of Corn has an even number of rows. Each stalk of Wheat has an even number of grains. Every bunch of Bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next an odd number. Amazing!

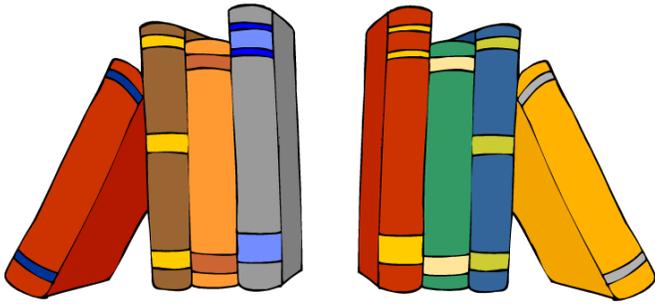
The lives of each of us may be ordered by the Lord in a Beautiful Way for His Glory, if we will only Entrust Him with our lives. If we try to regulate our own lives, we will have only mess and failure, only God, who made our brains and hearts, can successfully guide them to a profitable end. When you carry the Bible, Satan has a headache; when you open it, he collapses, when he sees you reading it, he loses his strength, and when you stand on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you!

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point.

I pray God continues to bless each of you in ways you never even dreamed.

All God's Blessings,

Greg Wendorf



Open Bible Library

A reminder that any books that people have out should be returned so they can be added to the list being compiled for our library. Nancy Kuepker has been marking the books as part of the Open Bible Collection and putting pockets in the inside. Check out procedures will be pretty simple. Find a book you are interested in, sign your name, phone number and date on the card, remove it and put it in the box on the shelf. When you are finished return the book to the basket marked for returns. They will be returned to the shelf by the library volunteers. If you have questions, please contact Peggi Carrier. Her phone number is 906-753-4930.

Bible Stumper Questions of the Month:

Why did the believers choose an apostle by casting lots?

The disciples asked the Lord to reveal His will concerning Judas' replacement as one of the Twelve. Two men had been nominated, and the disciples cast lots, a common practice in their day. Matthias was chosen. God's people frequently cast lots to determine His will, believing this practice allowed the Lord to make the decision instead of them---"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord." (Proverbs 16:33) Casting lots could be done in different ways, but

most likely in Matthias's case, the names were written on pebbles, placed in a container, and shaken. Since Matthias's pebble fell out first, the disciples considered him to be the Lord's choice. This is the last time the New Testament refers to this practice. Post-Pentecost accounts emphasize the work of the Spirit in revealing the Lord's will.

What is the day of Pentecost?

Pentecost, which means "fiftieth", is the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks, also called the Feast of Harvest and the day of firstfruits. Pentecost was one of three major festivals of the Jewish year, a festival of thanksgiving for harvested crops. It took place 50 days after the Passover Sabbath. Pious Jews tried to celebrate this feast day in Jerusalem; those who could not, observed it in their local synagogues. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Spirit. Jesus fulfilled His promises and sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Since then, the Christian church understands Pentecost as the day the Lord gifted His church with the Holy Spirit in order to equip believers to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Radio Ministry



We have begun a new Radio Ministry on Sunday's at 103.5 "The Shepherd." Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am.



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is for all the women in a WELS member congregation. It exists to increase awareness of and interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the WELS. It supports both Home and World mission projects. The particular projects that will be sponsored during the year are announced at the LWMS Convention held in June of each year. The 55th Convention will be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin. If you are not ready to make the Convention one of your summer highlights, consider attending the North Florida Circuit Rally of LWMS this fall. Open Bible is hosting the Fall Rally on Oct. 20th. Come find out more about our WELS mission programs and make new friends. Mary Burel is a former Vice President of the North Florida Circuit of LWMS, Peggi Carrier is the Reporter for our congregation, and Jane Valley is the President of our local WINGS group. For more information about the Conference in Green Bay, the Rally in October and activities of the WINGS group just ask these ladies.

Small Group Ministry

The Defenders

Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Jim Johnson
The Defenders will meet Thursday, May 17th. Meet at Wolfy's in Ocala, at 11:30am for lunch, then on to R & D Tactical in Ocala for a little target practice.

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork

Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski
The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 11th 9:00 – noon. This group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also, does knitting, crochet, and embroidery. So, if you have any craft project you are working on, please come and enjoy the fellowship.

Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen
Journey with Jesus Bible Study will meet again in September.

Fellowship Group

Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson, Joe & Paula Malec. Stay tuned for May's activity.

Men of Leisure—Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler
This month the meeting will be on Friday, May 11th at 8:30am. Meet at the Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466.

WinGS: Women in God's Service

Led by: Jane Valley
The WinGS Womens group meets the second Wednesday of each month. May 9th will be or next meeting 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 meeting on Monday May 14th at 1 pm for a Bible Study. The Topic: "Heaven-Seeing God Face To Face." 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. Other activities are planned for Sunday, May 6th, at 2:00pm. A group will be going to see "The Wedding Singer" at Leesburg Mellon Patch Theater. The play is a version of the Adam Sandler movie and is hailed as one of his best.

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

This Bible Study will be on Sundays, May 13th from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Meet at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. The Topic: The Book of Acts. Last meeting till fall.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson

The Ladies Bible Study will continue Tuesday's at 1:00 pm in May (Last meeting will be May15th. Topic: "Kitty, My Rib" written by E. Jane Mall. A heartwarming story about the woman behind the great man Martin Luther. Please contact Pam Johnson at 352-390-6982, if you will be attending.

466A Group Bible Study: The group is led by Pastor Rodger Dale. The group will meet again in the fall.

Friday Fore-Giving Golfers

Facilitator is Sandy Fehlhaber

This group meets once a week on Friday afternoons 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. Contact Sandy at jim.fehlhaber@gmail.com

Saturday Duffers Golfing outside The Villages. Join a group of golfers at different Golf courses on Saturdays. If interested, please contact Joe Malec: MalecJoe@gmail.com

Sunrise Saturday Morning Golfers:

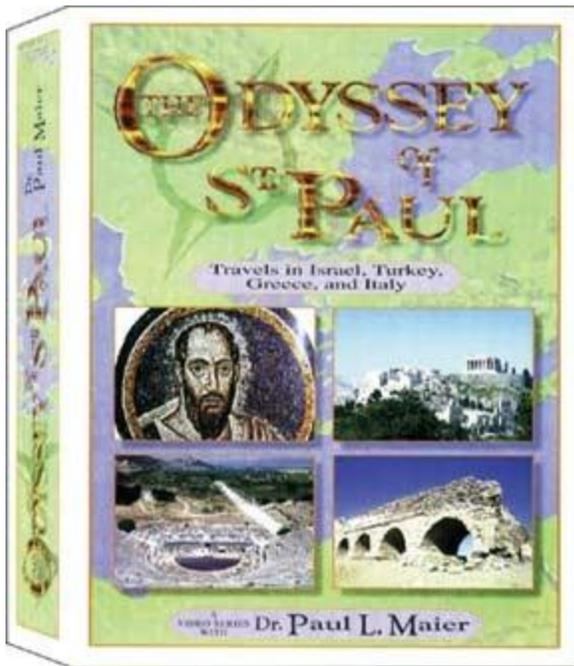
A group is formed for those of you that would like to golf at The Villages executive golf courses in the morning. This group's coordinator is Leslie Nelson. Leslie will be back in the fall to resume as coordinator. If anyone living in The Villages, is interested in filling in for her during the summer months, the group will be very happy! Please contact the church secretary Karen Pearson if you'd like to volunteer.

Handbells

Director: Pam Johnson

Excitement! Members are: Carol Benrud, Jean Butts, Peggi Carrier, Amy Hand, Carol Mehlberg, Mark Mehlberg, Jeanne Schulz, Mary Shara, & Doug Tharp. We are very blessed to have the opportunity to start our own handbell choir! If you are interest, or have played handbells before, please speak to Pam Johnson. Handbells will meet again in the fall.





**The Odyssey of St. Paul
Wednesday in the Word
Begins April 11th at 5:00 P.M.
8 Weeks**

Aside from Jesus himself, no one has had a greater influence on the founding of Christianity than Paul of Tarsus. Among his many achievements, three are of prime importance: 1) as a powerful, tireless missionary, he spread the faith to Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy; 2) his letters, which form much of the New Testament, present a basic theology for Christianity; and 3) more than anyone else, he brought Gentiles into the early church, not only Jews, thus "universalizing" the faith.

May 9th: The Second Mission Journey & Greece: Paul arrives in Philippi, travels to Thessalonica and Athens, and anchors his ministry in Corinth

May 16th: The Third Mission Journey: Ephesus in Asia Minor is the target of Paul's campaign for Christ.

May 23rd: Arrest & Imprisonment: Paul is attacked at the temple in Jerusalem, and is tried before the Roman governors Felix and Festus.

May 30th: The Voyage to Rome: Having appealed to the emperor, Paul sails to Rome but is shipwrecked in Malta. The following spring, he arrives in Italy and welcomes his fate in Rome.

**Buffalo Crossings
The Willows**

Facilitator: Pastor Rodger Dale. Pastor Dale is conducting Bible studies at Buffalo Crossing and The Willows on the first and third Mondays. He is sharing Stories for Faith from the Gospels and Devotions. The residents at Buffalo Crossing and The Willows are happy to have God's word come to them.

Care for the Care Givers

Meeting, Thursday, May 3rd at 2:00pm. A group has been established for members who are caregivers for loved ones and friends. Whether it is Alzheimer-Dementia, or chronic illness, all are invited to join us on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 2 pm. The meeting includes a brief devotional for encouragement and then attendees share their concerns, challenges, and lessons learned. All benefit through interaction with each other. Together we can persist through difficult times. The greatest obstacle is isolation and believing "we can handle our own challenges," alone. This support is not limited to only church members, so if you know someone that needs help bring them to the meetings.

Volunteer Activities

There are volunteer opportunities available to those who wish to spend an hour or so with an individual or group of residents at one of the independent living facilities that surrounds our church.

One example is Ina Taylor who volunteers to go to The Willows once a month to do a painting activity. She usually has 3 to 4 participants. They use acrylic paints and the subject matter ranges from flowers to pots and landscapes. For their next class they will focus on painting gift boxes. After that, "How to paint glass containers."

There is another individual that visits with residents and read to them. Another individual takes them to Walmart to do grocery shopping. So, if you are interested, please contact the church office.

Did You Know?



Sunday Worship Services: Beginning May 6th, we will go back to one service on Sundays. The time will stay the same 9:30am. We will continue with the Fellowship time after the service. And coffee is available in the Welcome Center before the service.

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 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 2018 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.

Coffee Hour Help: Open Bible is in need of men and women to help in the kitchen on Sundays for our Fellowship hour. Especially since all our seasonal members have gone back north! Help is needed after the 9:30am Worship Service. Please sign-up today!

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
- 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



For orphans in Haiti, the situation is bleak: Their homeland is the **poorest** nation in the western hemisphere. Haiti's **48% illiteracy** rate drags down dreams of a better

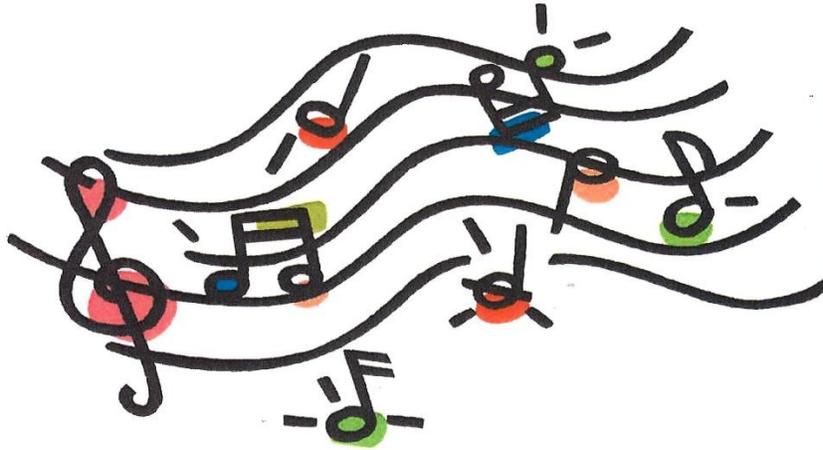


future. With a high incidence of **AIDS**, many children are infected from birth or lose their parents to the disease. The practice of **Voodoo** permeates the culture and contributes to exploitation, terror, and despair. Because Haiti is **98% deforested** and its surrounding **reef is dead**, fishing and farming are difficult, and the island is subject to weather extremes and **natural disasters**. In 2010, Haiti was devastated by a severe **earthquake** followed by a **cholera** epidemic. An estimated quarter of a million people lost their lives and many children were orphaned. The situation is bleak - but far from hopeless.

Today 270 children will experience **hope** in the Gospel, **empowerment** through literacy, and the life-changing advantage of a **Christ-centered education** at Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti.

And you can help! Open Bible will match up to \$2000 from our mission fund, any contributions you give, whether by check or cash, and place into a box, that will be on the Friendship Table on May 20th and May 27th. You can also mail a check to the church and put in the memo for Branch Schools in Haiti. Let's help this school reach out with Christ to these struggling children.

You're Invited



The students from
King of Kings Lutheran School
presents
Favorite Songs

Monday, May 14
11:00 am

Buffalo Crossings 3890 Woodridge Dr. The Villages, FL

***We will have a special collection on Sunday, May 13th
to help support the King of Kings Kids. There will be a special box located on the
Friendship Table if you'd like to donate to help these kids.***

Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church
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"Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known"
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com



Sundays 11:05 – 11:30am

Personal Hearing Assistance Devices are available during services at Open Bible. "The Hearing Loop System" is also installed. Please turn your hearing aid or cochlear implant to "T" (Telephone.)



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