



Newsletter



November 2019

Volume 14 No. 11

From the Pastor by Pastor Mark Schulz

1 Corinthians 9:22 "To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."

The apostle Paul once said, "I have become all things to all men, so that by all possible means, I might save some." The apostle Paul alerted the strong Christians in Corinth, that they should be careful not to unnecessarily offend a weak Christian brother or sister. In Corinth there was meat being sold in the local meat market, where a portion of that animal had been used in a pagan sacrifice. The strong Christians knew that there was nothing to an idol, and that the meat at the meat market was fine to buy and eat. However, the weak Christians in Corinth, felt that if they bought that meat in the meat market and ate it, they would be in some way giving worship to an idol. The weak Christians did not have the full knowledge and understanding of the strong Christian. As a result, the strong Christians were encouraged by Paul not to eat meat that had been used in the pagan sacrificial meals in front of the weak Christians.

At Open Bible, we have weak Christian visitors who come to our church on Sunday mornings when we offer communion. They feel that when we deny them the sacrament, that they are not good enough Christians to receive it, or that we are making a judgment on

them. They don't understand or have the knowledge that in 1 Corinthians 10:17, they are saying in the Lord's supper that they are one in teaching with those who receive it. That means that they agree with all the teachings from Scripture that we believe. These people don't realize the dramatic doctrinal differences that have taken place in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and the Missouri Synod. They think Lutheran is Lutheran. I realize we cannot compromise what Scripture says, but I do have a suggestion for you to consider so we won't offend the weak brother or sister. This suggestion will allow us to have future contact with them, to teach them the true meaning of the Lord' Supper, and what we actually believe. Our current communion practice has discouraged hundreds of people from coming back to Open Bible to worship and join our congregation.

I am recommending that this winter, we consider having a short communion service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 9:00-9:15 A.M. or on Saturdays from 3:30-3:45. This would be membership communion. The normal church service that would follow, would be a liturgical service, service of the Word, or Morning praise. Right now, we have 1 hour and 15 minute communion services on Sundays. If we follow my suggestion, we would be finished on a Sunday at 10:30 A.M. In other words, people wouldn't really be staying any longer. There are several growing WELS churches that use pre-service communion, so as not to offend the guests and visitors. We have to consider

whose convenience are we interested in, our own, or a potential soul, who may get to know Christ if they keep coming to Open Bible. Right now, we have members afraid to invite their friends to worship, because if the friend shows up on a communion Sunday, they will be offended. Let's discuss this. If we got out at 10:30 A.M., I would even be able to do Carriage House worship services every Sunday. Please give your feelings about this idea to our Elders and Church Council members.

President's Message

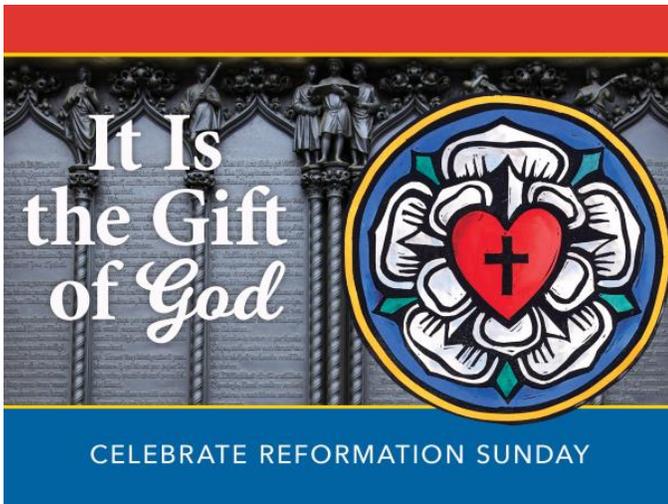
As a young boy I learned the joy of hunting and fishing with my father in northern Wisconsin especially in the fall of the year. As I grew older my two younger brothers joined us and our group of two became four. We were often successful in our ventures and grew to love the quality time we spent together. Come Sunday, however, our mother always made sure we were at Sunday school and Church and that we learned what really mattered. I'm not sure I totally realized at that early age the true value of the lessons our mother was teaching us. But over time we all change, and things have a tendency to come into clearer focus. My father passed away at age eighty-six and my mother lived to almost ninety-three. My two brothers and their families still live in Wisconsin and we keep in touch with one another and get together as often as possible. Rare hunting and fishing opportunities with them continue to be cherished and God remains our primary focus. We all should be thankful for those special people who provide valuable lessons and encouragement in our lives.

As we prepare for another Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for. We need to stop for a moment and think about the great blessings that God has lavished on us, not only here at Open Bible, but throughout our lifetimes in various forms. Let's not forget or overlook that the greatest blessings are the spiritual ones, the ones Jesus won for us by His death on the cross and now gives to us in the Gospel: forgiveness of sins and life eternal. And let's give thanks, not just for one day but also with how we live our entire lives. We know our sins are fully and completely forgiven for Jesus' sake. We can be at peace with God. We know that when we die our soul will be with the Lord in heaven. We know that our body will be resurrected a glorious body and reunited with our souls and our loved ones on the last day. We know we will spend eternity in our Father's magnificent mansion above in heaven. This is God's graceful promise to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanksgiving is a special day but giving thanks should be a special "every day" occurrence. One day, we'll rejoice over a happy reunion with our heavenly Father. We all share the desire – really a deep - down yearning – to be in that glorious home in heaven forever. It truly is a place of indescribable bliss. And the supreme blessing will be the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ himself. We cannot imagine what a day of rejoicing that will be. Enjoy your Thanksgiving and remember to always give Thanks!

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

Reformation Sunday



Open Bible Lutheran Church will celebrate Reformation on Sunday, November 3rd during the Worship Service. The theme will be "It Is the Gift of God Reformation"

Join us for our Reformation worship service, It Is a Gift from God, in which we celebrate the undeserved favor from God by which we are saved from sin, death and the devil through faith in our crucified and risen Lord Jesus. Just as Martin Luther was bold to proclaim this gift, we, too, should be bold to live out this gift by bringing glory to God alone.

Donor-Restricted Gift Policy

At the recommendation of the auditors, the church council has established the following policy for the handling of contributions made to Open Bible Lutheran Church.

Spending of funds is confined to church council approved programs and projects. Each contribution directed toward an approved program or project will be used as restricted with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met,

or cannot be completed for any reason as determined by the church council, the remaining restricted contribution will be used where most needed.

Following is a list of the current approved programs and projects. Any contributions made to other than these approved funds, will be placed in the general fund.

Building/Improvement Fund
Food Bank Fund
Memorial Fund
Mortgage Reduction Fund
Missions Fund
Women in God's Service Fund

"Serving the Savior" This Month

This month we would like to acknowledge the Founders of Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church. The following people had a role in defining the creation of Open Bible church:

Rev. Donald and Lois Meier
Herb & Doreen Schaefer
Russell & Ruth Niermeyer
Earl & Doris Schlicht
Dennis Duessler
Ruth Vance
Russ & Irma Follett
Doug and Barb Hartshorn

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for having the vision, determination and support to be able to bring us this beautiful church. And the opportunity to be able to share the Gospel with friends and new acquaintances. And the calling to offer the pure and true word of God to the residents and visitors in and around the area of The Villages.

We just celebrated 10 years at this location, and we thank the Lord every

day for the blessings He has shown to Open Bible Church. On Sunday, October 27th, we dedicated our new organ, the handbells and the Memorial Garden.

Our Mission is to share the message of Christ crucified with this community and throughout the world in partnership with our parent denomination, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS.) Our Mission Statement: "Growing in Christ through the Word, making His Salvation Known." It is very fitting to what we as a congregation would like to accomplish.

Small Group Ministry

Wednesday in the Word:

Led by Pastor Mark Schulz

Join us on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 P.M.

The Christians in Corinth faced many of the conflicts that Christians today encounter as they seek to live their faith in a culture that contradicts Christian beliefs and principles.

TOPICS:

October 30th-Meaningful Worship

November 6th: The Resurrection: Our Perfection

November 13th: A Christian Perspective on Illegal Immigration

November 20th: A Christian Perspective on Global Warming

November 27th: Stress as a Senior

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.

The meetings for November will be:

Tuesday, Nov. 12th at the home of Tom & Betty DeWitz. If you would like to host

November 26th at your home, please contact Pastor Rodger Dale.

This year's study is: "The Birth of Christianity", a dramatic video presentation of the complete book of Acts. Following the video there will be discussion of what it means.

Journey with Jesus Bible Study

Led by: Judy Hainen

Will continue on Monday's, at 9:15 am. We will continue with our study in the book of Romans. We will again meet in various homes. Please speak with Judy so materials can be ready for you. This is for ladies and meeting time is 9:15-10:30 am. Here is the schedule of meeting places:

Nov. 4th: Stephanie Street

Nov. 11th: Judy Hainen

Nov. 18th: Stephanie Street

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson.



Meets on Sundays at 11:00 am. We need two more people that would like to ring bells or learn to ring bells.

Choir: Music Director is Judy Hainen.



Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:05pm.

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 November 15th.

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



Led by: Genie Selvey
WinGS November meeting will be Wednesday, October 9th at 1:00 pm.

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, continuing with Psalm 103 on November 11th at 1:00 pm. Check out the partial schedule on the bulletin board and help yourself to a copy. Join in planning the group events and outing.

We have a group outing planned for Saturday, November 16th at 10:00 am. We will be going to the Horse Show at Grand Oaks Resort. It is a free event. We will then have dinner at Perkins.

BOB Breakfast: Band of Brothers:



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study The group coordinator is Richard Raine and Pastor Rodger Dale. Next Bible Study will be Saturday November 2nd

at 8:30am. Topic: Nehemiah.

A breakfast Bible Study for men meeting the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 am. The topic: "Real Men Lead", a study of the book of

Nehemiah, a remarkable Old Testament leader you never heard of.

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, November 10th & 24th at 6:00 pm at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. Continuing with Battles of the Bible. All are welcome to join, contact Alan Johnson if interested.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson
Continues on Tuesdays, 2:00 pm at Open Bible. **Topic: Come to the Soul Spa!** Have you ever longed to go to a place where you could forget about your day-to day problems for a while? Be pampered with facials and manicures? Where therapists would massage the stress out of your knotted muscles? We will be visiting a different kind of spa – A Soul Spa. We will discover meaningful ways to connect with God and focus on His constant and merciful presence in your life. In the Soup Spa, God will take your weary soul, and give it a new life. Please sign up via email (lambteach@cox.net), phone: 352-208-1271, or place a note in our box at church.

Men of Leisure:

Led by: Dennis Duessler



First meeting will be Friday, November 8th 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.

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.

Game Day!

Save the date. **Friday, November 1st & December 6th** from 1:00 – 4:00pm. There will be a Game Day. Bring your friends, a snack to pass and your favorite game to play and we will enjoy fellowship and games. (This is a new time we are trying to see if an afternoon would be better than evening.) 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.

Care for the Caregivers:

Caring for Caregivers May Be for You

Is caring for Caregivers for you or someone you know?

Over the years I have known many caregivers. One especially comes to mind, a petite wife with a tall, large husband, both in their 80's. He had advanced Parkinson's disease and she had to help him in and out of the wheelchair, bed, bathroom, bathing, etc. I always wondered how she survived day to day. She did it cheerfully, lovingly—he was her husband for over 60 years.

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, next meeting November 7th. We will have an informational presentation from some professional people from "Compassionate Care Hospice Care." Bruce Baker, Social Worker and Ed Torre, Clinical Liasion will give a presentation on "The Many Facets of Hospice Care." Everyone is invited.

Do you know a caregiver who could benefit from this sharing, learning experience? Invite her/him to come with you to the November 7th meeting.

Pastor Dale, facilitator

Early Bird Bible Study:

Led by Pastor Mark Schulz Sundays
from 8:00 – 8:50 am.



Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks---- In *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks*,
Topic: **November 3rd:**
"Psalm 139: God's

Attributes – Too Wonderful for Me!"

Long before cell phones, the Internet, or HDTV could ever broadcast a message, Jesus' words attracted crowds by the thousands. Yet many people-his disciples, the teachers of the law, and others-found certain words and sayings to be confusing or challenging. Perhaps you've struggled with these as well.

This study will clear up the confusion around difficult and controversial statements so that you may embrace the Savior's Words of life.

November 10th: Translations!
Traditions! And Troubles

November 17th: Does Jesus
Contradict Himself?

November 24th: The Upside-Down
Kingdom

Altar Guild: Leader: Mary Burel

The Altar Guild welcomes any lady interested in serving with the guild. You may contact any member or Mary Burel or just attend the meeting. We will train you so you will feel comfortable in your service.

We are preparing for the fall and winter festival season with Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

New Life in Christ

New Life in Christ Bible Study, Led By Pastor Schulz: Will begin meeting on

Tuesdays, November 5th from 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

This year after the 10:00 AM Thanksgiving Worship Service, November 28th a wonderful meal

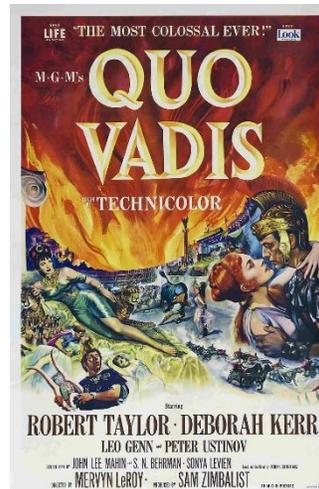


will be served. It is a great way to gather with our Open Bible family. If you have no family plans,

consider joining us this year. A sign-up sheet is available on the counter near the fellowship hall if you will be joining the "family" for dinner. A few ladies volunteered to cook turkeys, mashed potatoes and gravy, but they ask for everyone to bring another Thanksgiving item. There is a need of help for the setup and clean-up.

Movie Night

We had a great Movie Night on October 22nd. We watched the heart wrenching story of "Breakthrough." If you haven't seen this one, it'll be well worth your time to watch it.



The next movie will be on Tuesday, November 19th at 7:00 pm. This movie is a love story titled "Quo Vadis." It's an epic drama set in ancient Rome during the final years of Emperor Nero's reign.

Returning from a military campaign abroad, General Marcus Vinicius discovers that a new religion has taken hold in Rome: Christianity. When Vinicius encounters Lygia a follower of the strange religion, he quickly becomes smitten and tries to win her affections.

Come join us at the movies!

"Mornings with Mommy"



We had a nice group of children for our Mornings with Mommy session in October! Lots of energy! What fun God has in store for these children. Our next session is November 5th theme is Instruments, and November 19th will be Thanksgiving. So spread the news! Please call or text to preregister 989-450-1937.

Bible Study at Senior Facilities

Buffalo Crossings is switching from Wednesdays to the first, third and fifth Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Second, we will continue with a study: "Top 40 Most Helpful Messianic Prophecies". This study was compiled by Jews who believe Jesus is the promised Messiah. Third, the Open Bible is invited to participate in any of the three studies. One Activity Director issued a special invitation and remarked that their residents would enjoy interacting with people from Open Bible. The three senior facilities are located adjacent to Open Bible. The schedule is printed in the bulletin.

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. Jim & Eva Orcutt 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.

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.

Memory Garden

Sample Granite Stones 9.5" x 6"



If you are interested in purchasing a granite stone for the memory garden, please contact Karen Pearson, Church Secretary for a form or one is located by the Sanctuary doors. The cost will be \$50.00 per granite stone. All stones will be black granite with gold lettering and a small cross in the upper right corner.



Advent By Candlelight

Special Ladies Advent by Candlelight:

Sunday, December 8th at 6:00 pm.

This year we are trying something different for our Advent By Candlelight. WinGS will host an Advent By Candlelight with Michael Westendorf from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mike has an interactive Advent concert called "One Night in Bethlehem." It is a series of songs and stories around the characters of the Nativity scene. After we will have dessert and coffee and tea in the Fellowship Hall. I'm sure this will be a meaningful evening for all women. Sign-up sheets and invitations will be available starting next Sunday,

November 10th. Please invite your friends to join us.



Happy Anniversary

Gordon & Shirley Roback – 9
Ron & Mary Helen Schultz – 16
Rich & Dianne Kuhlman - 18
Ron & Karen Dahm – 19
Mike & Carol Benrud – 25
Bill & Sally Stocks – 26



Happy Birthday

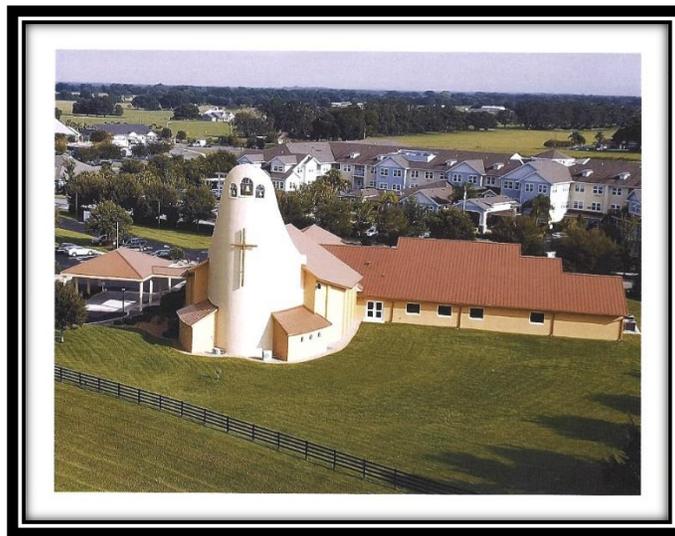
James Fehlhaber – 2
Dave Gonja – 5
Robin Otto - 7
Janis Liermann – 11
Jean Marshall - 12
Jeri Leeper – 13
John Liermann – 14
Kathy Griffin - 18
Earl Schlicht – 19
Steve Kuepker - 19
Pat Kramer - 20
Ron Stuedemann – 22
Pastor Mark Schulz – 23
Roger Otto - 28
Linda Gustrowsky – 29

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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 103.5 "The Shepherd."
Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am

Scan this image with your iPhone or
I-Pad and go immediately to our web site.

