



FROM THE PASTOR

Open Bible Lutheran Church is on the move. We have so many talented people in this congregation, people who love their Savior, people who have been active in their former congregations, people who want to see the mission of the church carried out. Our mission remains to seek and save the lost. Our mission remains to nurture the saved. As you will notice, every idea that I propose to you for ministry fits that mission.

With that mission in mind, we will begin evening worship services at Steeplechase on Tuesday, November 6th at 7:00 pm. There are 160 residents at Steeplechase. We will have a shortened order of service on Tuesday nights. For the first month, I will be eating dinner with the residents on Tuesday nights, and the director, will announce my presence during dinner and allow me to say a few words about our worship service following dinner. The dinner hour will give me time to mingle and meet people. People need to know how much you care about them before they are willing to listen to what you have to share.

A new Bible study series will begin on November 5th entitled, "Managing Life Challenges as a Senior". The six session series will be held from 2:00-3:00 pm for six Mondays. Here are a list of the topics by the week: 1)When you Face Stress as a Senior 2)When Someone We Love is Afflicted with a Terminal Illness 3)When We Recover from a Serious Illness 4)When our Children Marry 5)When a Loved One Dies Suddenly 6) When We Outlive Our Relatives. Please help us by taking some of the flyers on the welcome table in our fellowship hall and posting them on appropriate bulletin boards in your community, or by giving a flyer to a friend who may be interested in joining us. Remember, these studies are not just an outreach vehicle, but an opportunity for you to join us as well.

Our Wednesday study, "Small Talk to God Talk" meets on Wednesday nights from 5:00-6:00 pm. The five session study will be completed on November 14th. We

have been averaging around 40 participants per week. On November 7th, we will be learning a simple Law-Gospel witness to share with our friends. Our last class on November 14th will deal with handling objections our friends may have to our Christian faith. Please feel free to join us for any of these sessions.

A 13 session Grief Share class will be meeting on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm. The first class will be on November 29th. Flyers and brochures will be available on the Welcome table at church. Please give these brochures and flyers to friends you know who have lost someone close to them. This is an outreach opportunity. Each Grief share session includes a video seminar and group discussion.

As soon as we get our revised church brochure updated, special packets will be available for you to give out to newcomers in your neighborhood. These packets will include many helpful items for a newcomer to the Villages, or other communities near Open Bible.

Festival of Friendship Sunday is set for December 9th at 9:30 am. Consider inviting someone you know who is not active in a church to come along with you to church that Sunday. If you don't know anyone, still show your support by coming to worship on that day. Go Open Bible! The fields are "white" for the harvest!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Why did God choose you to be one of his own? I don't know how many times I've asked myself that question. Then I follow it up by asking; why am I here in this particular place at this particular time? Of course only God knows the entire answer, but I think we have a pretty good idea. He handpicked us because he wanted to. God chose us out of love and put us here and now to be of service to others. That service may take on many different forms, but just as Jesus lived a life of service to mankind, so are we to do the same.

His message to humanity while he was here was that it was better to serve others, than to be served. In Mark

10:45 he writes “The Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many people.” Back then, as now, people often hoped that others would meet their needs. They trusted God as long as it seemed convenient. Giving up personal wealth and status to serve was a very big price to pay, just as it is for many today. But that is exactly what God expects us to do and he tells us the rewards will be eternal. Simon Peter the Apostle writes that God has already given us everything we need to live and serve him. He states in 2 Peter Ch. 1:10-11, “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

In the Gospel of Mark, Ch. 10 vs.17 – 25, we hear the story of the rich young man who came to Jesus, fell on his knees and asked what he must do to have eternal life. Amongst other things, Jesus told him in vs. 21, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow me.” The young man in the story found Jesus’s advice more than he wanted to hear. He went away sad because the riches of this world were too important in his life.

In our highly permissive society, it is simply not natural for most people to live a life of service. But because of Jesus’s perfect example and the work of the Holy Spirit, you and I have the seed of God’s word firmly planted in our hearts. Today that seed sprouts and grows, and leads us through our life of service, and fills us with eternal hope.

A few months ago the Hymn of the day was entitled “Lord, Tis Not That I Did Choose You”. The Hymn writer, particularly in the first verse, points to God and His amazing Grace as the reason for giving thanks for being chosen.

“Lord, tis not that I did choose they; That, I know, could never be;

For this heart would still re-fuse Thee, Had Thy grace not chosen me.

Thou hast from the sin that stained me Washed and cleansed and set me free

And unto this end ordained me, That I ever live to Thee.

This Thanksgiving (and always for that matter) take stock and thank God for all the blessings sent your way and also the way of Open Bible. Remember that God is wise, powerful and loving. We have been predestined to be heirs of God who has put a well of living water in

you – let it spill out so others can drink it in. Don’t miss the joy of your unique service. We are called to a life of service because we belong to him. And we will one day stand in glory we can’t even imagine.

God’s Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

WHO’S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

By Leslie Nelson



We are happy to welcome Evelyn Emmons, who joined our Open Bible family in August.

She comes to us from Hampton Bays on the eastern end of Long Island, but was born and raised in Malverne, LI, NY, a bucolic suburb with victory gardens. She rode her bike, jumped rope and played stick ball in the street with her friends.

After attending Valley Stream grade and high schools, Evelyn received an associate degree in accounting from Suffolk Community College, which she put to good use in her career as a bookkeeper.

She was baptized, confirmed and married in Grace Lutheran Church in Malverne.

Evelyn met Bob Emmons at Valley Stream High School. After college they were married and lived in Moorhead, MN, while Bob completed his courses at the U of M there. During these years their daughters, Karin and Dianne, were born. After a year of Bob teaching in New Jersey, they moved to Whitehall, NY, where their son, Scott, was born. Then the family moved back to Long Island, to Hampton Bays, a community surrounded by two bays and the Atlantic Ocean, where Evelyn and Bob lived until moving to Florida. They were long-time members of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church there.

Bob was a teacher and a high school wrestling coach for over 40 years, and is now coaching at The Villages Charter High School.

Karin is an RN living in Arizona. Dianne still lives in Hampton Bays and has two daughters. Scott lives in Southampton, near Hampton Bays, and has two sons.

Living all those years where the best fresh fish and shellfish are plentiful, it is no surprise that Evelyn’s favorite food is seafood. In fact, she was the bookkeeper for a fish wholesaler for several years.

She enjoys reading nonfiction, especially the historical novels of Eric Larson. She loves watching “Bones” and “The Pickers” on TV. She also loves gardening, line-dancing, and walking, and is starting to play a little golf.

We still have lots more to learn about Evelyn Emmons, and are looking forward to doing that during our fellowship times together at Open Bible.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The regular monthly Council meeting was held on October 16th. We normally meet on Thursdays but due to Pastor being gone we met on Tuesday. The full council was present and much was accomplished.

The treasurer’s report showed a year to date surplus of \$9,839.95. Offerings are picking up as we go into the fall.

The following items were acted on by the council:

1. Approved having a trial period of arranging the sanctuary seating in slightly curved rows.
2. Approved Altar Guild’s suggestion that we have two real floral arrangements delivered to church twice a month.
3. Approved time change for Advent and Lenten services from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Dinners to be held at 5:00 pm. Transportation will be offered to members who do not drive at night.
4. Approved purchase of a church computer program for office administration called Power Church Plus.
5. Approved changing council meetings to the third Thursday of the month to accommodate the other committees to meet prior to the council meeting.
6. Approved special council meeting for Nov. 8th for the sole purpose of finalizing the administration flow chart.

We are seeing quite a few visitors and prospects attending services each week. Make sure to greet them and make them feel at home.

That's it for this month. Look for more council highlights next month.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The monthly meeting of the Worship Committee was held on October 4th. The main item for discussion was our Council assignment to study the proposed seating

arrangement and to come up with a proposal. The committee proposed that we try a curved seating arrangement for a three week trial and then let the congregation decide on which arrangement to use. An opinion vote will be taken on Sunday, November 11th. Look for a bulletin insert on this Sunday.

Other items discussed were the upcoming Thanksgiving service, a meeting with the organ installer to help the organists with the available features of the organ, and the start up of choir.

Worship, what are the components of worship? What are the important parts of a worship service? Why do we do certain things in our worship services Sunday after Sunday? Let's take a look at some of the parts of our worship service.

A worship service begins with a welcome by the pastor and a brief statement on what the theme of the worship service will be for the day.

Since the Lutheran Church is known as the singing church an opening hymn is sung. Hymns are chosen to fit the theme of the day. Look for that theme while singing all the hymns of the service.

Next is the invocation. Here the pastor states that our worship service is one in which we worship the triune God and that His grace be with us. We respond to this with saying that we want our pastor to also have this grace.

Following the invocation we have the confession of sins. This is a very important part of the service for it is here that we not only confess our sins but we receive absolution (forgiveness of our sins) from the pastor as if Christ was pronouncing our forgiveness. This lifts the burden of our sins because we know that our sins are forgiven by God. We rejoice in this and state AMEN to it. Amen meaning, yes, this is so.

The confession and absolution is followed by a canticle. This is a short hymn of praise expressing our joy and happiness in receiving forgiveness.

The canticle is followed by a prayer for the day. This prayer varies from Sunday to Sunday and it requests a single blessing from the triune God. Now comes the meat and potatoes of the worship service, The Word.

There are usually three scripture readings for each service that follow the theme of the service. One Old Testament one, a reading from the Epistles and a reading from one of the four Gospels. The Psalm for the day follows the Old Testament reading. Following the second reading we read the Verse of the Day. This verse states a familiar or significant Scripture text and is framed by Alleluias.

Before the sermon the congregation sings another hymn called the sermon hymn or hymn of the day. This hymn again follows the theme of the service.

The sermon further explains the scripture text chosen for the worship theme. This is the portion of the service where we hear what God says about the theme and how we are to make this part of our daily life.

One of the creeds is used each Sunday so that we can publicly proclaim what we believe. This is a great reminder of why we worship and what we profess.

More prayers start the conclusion of the service and they are followed by the Lord's Prayer which is a model prayer for us to use.

Another hymn is sung, restating the theme and this is followed by prayers for individuals in the congregation, situations that surround us, and world disasters.

The closing statement is the benediction. Here the worshippers receive the blessings of our God on them personally. What a way to end the worship service.

Hopefully this brief explanation of our worship service has given you information that will be helpful as you worship each week.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

We thank all of our members who attended the picnic and Hoe Down last Saturday. Food was good, fellowship even better and the Hoe Down was interesting.

Our upcoming events to finish off the year will include the following:

December 1st – Decorated Home Tour in Mt. Dora with lunch or dinner at a local restaurant in Mt. Dora. Look for more details in the church bulletin in the coming weeks.

Mark December 15th on your calendars for this is the date for a caroling event. All singers are invited to come with us for caroling at Steeplechase. We will meet at church at 3:45 pm for a brief rehearsal under the direction of Stacy Vance and then go over to Steeplechase to carol at 4:30 pm. Then it's back to the church's fellowship hall for a chili dinner and game night. There will be a sign up sheet available in a few weeks.

Hope to see many of our members at both of these events.

Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events in November:

Quilter's Workshop – Friday, Nov. 2nd 10 am to 2 pm. Bring a brown bag lunch. Ruth Niermeyer, chairperson.

Chrismon's Workshop – Friday, Nov. 9th – 10 am to 2 pm. Bring a brown bag lunch. Gail Rathgeber, chairperson.

KING OF KINGS Children's Choir – Nov. 11th – 9:30 am.

Women of Open Bible Nov. meeting – Wednesday, Nov. 14th at 1 pm. All ladies are invited.

Thanksgiving Dinner Invitation: Please speak to Pastor Schulz if you are going to be alone on Thanksgiving and he will pass this information along to several members who have volunteered to serve dinner at their home.

Looking ahead for December – Be sure to mark your calendars:

Advent by Candlelight – Sunday, Dec. 2nd – 6 pm. Sign up sheets are in the narthex for hostesses and guests.

Women of Open Bible Christmas Party at Nancy Lopez Country Club at 12 Noon. All ladies are invited. Judy Anderson and Gail Rathgeber, chairpersons. Watch for sign up sheets.

Advent Light Suppers on Dec. 5th, Dec. 12th and Dec. 19th. Watch for sign up sheets to help with supper or clean up.

Serving with Gratitude,
Marilyn Acklam, President of Women of Open Bible

ALTAR GUILD SERVING SCHEDULE

November	Audrey Hoerchner/Leslie Nelson
December	Joan Blaho/Leslie Nelson

THANK YOU

Ken and Elisabeth Wells would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and condolences at the time of Ted Wells going home to his Lord and Savior. Special thanks to Pastor Schulz for leading the congregation in prayer and consoling us in our grief.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ron & Karen Dahm – 19
Dennis & Pat Knack – 21
Mike & Carol Benrud – 25
Ken & Norma Phillips – 26
Bill & Sally Stocks – 26

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James Fehlhaber – 2
Dave Gonia – 5
Joyce Schrenk – 8
Robert Miller – 8
Janis Liermann – 11
Jeri Leeper – 13
John Liermann – 14
Earl Schlicht – 19
Jackie Rousselo – 20
Ron Stuedemann – 22
Jerry Yahn – 22
Fred Rathgeber – 24
Linda Gustrowsky – 29
Jack Affeldt – 29

