



FROM THE PASTOR

The Source of Thanks-living – Luke 17:11-19

Face it, sometimes you wake up in the morning very unthankful. You'd rather not deal with the issues leftover from yesterday; you'd rather not discover the new difficulties that are hovering for today; you'd prefer to just stay in bed, concluding that it would be too difficult to live thankfully today. It begs the question: what is the source of thanks-living? Is it even possible on planet earth?

One time, something happened in the ministry of Jesus that is a prime example of both thanks-living and thanklessness. Ten lepers stood at a distance from the Lord - leprosy was so nasty that if you received that early death sentence the only folks you could hang around were other lepers. "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" they cried together. And he did. He told them to go show themselves to the priests, the legal requirement for what a cleansed leper needed to do to re-join society. When they started walking, they still were sickly, but as they went, they were cleansed.

Nine kept walking. One turned around. There was something very important to be done; going to the priest and rejoining society could wait a little longer. He came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The source of his thanks-living? It was the miraculous mercy of a holy, powerful God. Jesus healed him of his leprosy and he returned to thank and praise Jesus. More than that, this man looked to Jesus in faith to save him from his leprosy of sin. Jesus assured him that he was his Savior who had come to cleanse him of his guilt. In mercy Jesus cared for him in both body and soul, for time and

eternity. Don't you think that no matter what the circumstances, this man got up every morning thereafter and lived in thankful response to his Savior's mercy?

The others, however, had hearts occupied with other issues. They were too distracted to center on the mercy of a holy, powerful God – even though they had just experienced God's mercy directly. Because they were occupied with the temporary and not the eternal, it wouldn't be long before even this blessing of healing would be forgotten, and their thankless hearts would take over and lead them back into a life of frustration and purposelessness.

We have received God's mercy in Christ. He has done everything to win forgiveness and heaven for us. The next time you wake up unthankful, don't ask, "Why don't things ever go my way?" Instead think of how wonderful the Lord has been to you. Then you're dialing into the source of thanks-living: God's great mercy for you in Jesus your Savior.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In my younger days (particularly in the summer months) I often spent a good deal of time fishing in northern Wisconsin with my dad and two younger brothers. I guess I would have to admit that they were probably better fishermen than I was but never the less I enjoyed the camaraderie that existed between the four of us. Now I don't often get the chance to do much traditional fishing since losing my father and moving away from my brothers. But I (and all of us for that matter) can do another and much more important type of

fishing on a very regular basis. I'm speaking about fishing for souls for Christ.

In the time after his resurrection, Jesus gathered numerous times with his disciples. One such time occurred by the Sea of Galilee. In Luke 5:1-11 we hear the miraculous story of God filling the nets of Peter and his partners with a large number of fish. Can you imagine the look on Peter's face when he realized how many fish were coming up in his nets especially considering the fact they had been fishing all night and hadn't caught anything. From that moment on, Peter's life was changed. Now he would be fishing with a spiritual net, catching souls for the Lord.

Today, Jesus is still calling his disciples to lower their nets for a catch. Practically speaking, what does lowering our nets look like? First and foremost it means acting and speaking in such a way that we shine the light of Christ into others' lives. As people see the light of Christ in us they will be drawn toward it so that Jesus can sweep them into the large net of God's Kingdom. Because Jesus lived, died, and rose for the sins of the world, that means the world needs to hear this message. We, as members of the Christian Church, have no more important message to share with the world than Christ crucified and Christ arisen. You have no more important message to share with your friends, relatives, neighbors than Christ crucified and Christ arisen.

A few years ago we began a type of fishing experience by beginning what has become a tradition entitled "Friendship Sunday". We place special emphasis on encouraging everyone to get involved in inviting someone we know to a special service at Open Bible. All we are basically asked to do is plant a seed and then allow the Holy Spirit to intervene on our behalf. In order to plant that seed we have to speak. Silence is really not an option, at least not if we love our neighbors. No one is going to call on the Lord and be saved unless they believe, and no one is going to believe unless they hear, and no one is going to hear of Christ unless we tell them.

"God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him" (John 3:17). Jesus came to save the world

with his perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection. Jesus did save the world. But only believers receive the benefits he won for all people. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Thanks to God's grace, we believe in Jesus. One way to thank God is by sharing the message of salvation with others. We need to make every effort to reach the lost because we know that every person in the world is a precious soul for whom Jesus died. Keep the lost in mind and use your gifts to spread God's word to them. You just never know what you might catch in that net of yours.

Happy Thanksgiving and God's blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE



By Leslie Nelson

Shirley and Gordon Roback are Associate Members at Open Bible and are still members of Grace Lutheran Church in Tecumseh, Michigan, the church where they were both confirmed as adults

back in 1964! They were married on November 9th, 1963 at the Baptist church in Fairfield, MI where Shirley was baptized and the couple later met.

They were both born in Adrian, MI. Gordon attended public schools in Madison, MI, and Michigan State University in Lansing. Shirley went to public schools in Sand Creek, and then Stautzenber Business College in Toledo, OH.

The Robacks have 3 sons, 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Their sons all live in Michigan: in the towns of Adrian, Leslie and Onsted, to be exact. Seven of their grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren are in Michigan, with the rest in New York and Iowa. Shirley and Gordon lived in Tecumseh for 27 years, Onsted, MI for the past 20 years, and now split their time with 5 months in Michigan and 7 months here at their home in

Wildwood, which they bought in 2006 after friends introduced them to the area. When they retired in 2009, they started spending a nice, long winter down here.

Gordon spent 25 years as Service Manager at the John Deere dealership in Tecumseh. He also served on the Lenawee County Road Commission in Adrian for 14 years. Most recently, he spent 8 years at Hubbard Auto in Onsted.

Shirley was the Records Clerk and Secretary at the Lenawee County Sheriff's Dept. and retired after 25 years.

They both enjoy Spanish dishes and seafood, and watching American Pickers on TV. Shirley is also a fan of Wheel of Fortune. She likes reading fiction and family novels. Gordon is a sports fan and also likes the History Channel. They like to play cards, and Gordon golfs, while Shirley does quilting, makes jewelry and plays bingo.

The Robacks are back now and really enjoy worshipping with us at Open Bible, so look for them on Sunday. Be sure to wish them a Happy Anniversary when you see them, as they are celebrating 50 years on Nov. 9th!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY FOR NOV.

SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him)

Topic: Psalm 121

Location: Open Bible Lutheran Church

Date: November 11th

Time: 1:00 PM

Facilitator: Pastor Rodger Dale

This group has one spiritual meeting a month and one service or recreational activity each month.

466A Group- Topic: Angels and Demons

Location: Meeting at home of Robert & Carol Hintz

Date: November 14th

Time: 2:00-4:00 PM

Location: Meeting at home of Jim & Eva Orcutt

Date: November 19th

Time: 2:00-4:00 PM

Facilitator: Pastor Mark Schulz

Godly Men of Leisure- Topic: "Temple Maintenance"

Location: Perkin's Restaurant

Date: November 22nd

Time: 8:00 AM

Facilitator: Dennis Duessler

Women's Bible Study- Topic: Women of the Bible

Location: Open Bible Lutheran Church

Dates: November 7th and 21st

Time: 1:00 PM

Facilitator: Judy Anderson

Wednesday in the Word: Topic: The Unwilling Missionary – A study of the Book of Jonah

Location: Open Bible Lutheran Church

Date: November 6th

Time: 5:00 PM

Facilitator: Pastor Schulz

Dates: November 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th

Time: 5:00 PM

Book Club: Topic: Civil Government God's Other Kingdom by Daniel Deutchlander

Location: Open Bible Lutheran Church

Date: November 26th

Time: 10:00 AM

Facilitator: Duane Anderson & Pastor Schulz

Please contact our church secretary to order your book for this month!

North County Group: Topic: Heaven and Hell

Location: Home of Alan and Pam Johnson

Dates: November 10th and 24th

Time: 6:00 PM

Facilitator: Alan Johnson

Defenders:

Location: Leesburg Gun Range on Highway 44

Date: November 8th

Time: 10:30 am

Facilitator: Bill Sigurdson

Prayer and lunch following

More information on our newest small group – THE DEFENDERS

If you have an interest in keeping sharp with your handgun by practicing shooting once a month, consider joining the Defenders. The coordinators of this group are Bill Sigurdson and Ken Wells.

Usually the group shoots from 100-150 rounds. The cost is \$10.00 if you have your own ammunition and targets. Once the group completes their shooting, they have a time for prayer as they bring requests to God to protect our soldiers, and to continue to bless America. Then, they head off for lunch or to the local pawn shop. Ladies are welcome to join this group!

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The church council held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 18th. The following are the highlights from that meeting.

- The treasurer reported donations have exceeded the expenses by \$539.79 for the month of September.
- Year to date we have had a surplus of \$41,749.90.
- Our mortgage balance as of September 30th is \$442,086.27
- Approved the names of 7 individuals for confirmation and membership.
- Approved Advent service times for 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm with a meal in between.
- Approved a change in the time for our Thanksgiving service to 10:30 am.
- Approved the time for the Christmas Eve service for 6:00 pm.
- Approved Lenten service times for 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.
- Gave the go ahead to work with Time of Grace for an advertising spot at the end of the weekly program.
- Thrivent members are encouraged to look into the Choice Dollar program.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

This past month the Worship Committee met a couple of times to review services for November and Thanksgiving. I think our members will like all of these services. We are beginning the season of the church year entitled, "End Times." It is during this time that we concentrate on: Last Judgement, Saints Triumphant, and Christ the King. These Sundays will conclude the church year. Advent is the beginning of the new year for the church. Our choir will be singing in each of these services.

This coming Sunday is Reformation. We will be celebrating the birth of the Lutheran Church and Luther's reforms. We hope that all our members will sing with gusto the Reformation hymn, "A Mighty Fortress in Our God."

November 24th will be our first Friendship Sunday in the new church year. Begin to think about who you could invite to church that Sunday.

We also set up a new rotation for the organists for Sundays and for the Advent Services.

At our next meeting we will finalize the Advent Services, the Sunday services, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services.

The next two months will be awesome for worship at Open Bible.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

What a great time we all had at the October Fest activity. We had between 60 and 70 in attendance for this event. Several members of Open Bible came in authentic German dress. After the opening prayer was said in German, the group enjoyed grilled brats, sauerkraut, German potato salad, spaetzle, pretzels, and a wonderful assortment of desserts. German music was playing the entire time. We would like to thank all those who brought German food to share and all those who helped out in anyway. A great example of all pitching in to make an event very successful.

Maybe this activity should be an annual event? What do you think. Let us know.

We will be taking a break in November since many of our members are participating in the Thanksgiving meal that will be served after the 10:30 am Thanksgiving Service.

Our next activity is scheduled for December 14th. On this Saturday we will be Christmas caroling at both Carriage House and Steeplechase followed by a chili dinner. If you are interested in joining fellow members in singing carols please sign up on the sheet located on the counter of the kitchen pass through. A brief rehearsal will be held from 3:45 to 4:15 pm that day. We will sing at Carriage House around 4:30 pm and at Steeplechase around 5:30 pm during their dinner hour. We will enjoy this event.

We already have an activity planned for January so check out the December Newsletter for details.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and count your many blessings. One being fellowship with your Open Bible family.

UPOMING EVENTS

Reformation Sunday on November 3rd

On Sunday, November 3rd, we will celebrate our Lutheran Reformation at Open Bible in our 9:30 am service. The choir will be joining the congregation to sing the well-known reformation hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God". Special handouts about the importance of the Reformation will be included in each bulletin. Following the service, we will have a special pot-luck meal and will view a 30 minute video about the Lutheran Reformation.

New Member Welcome on November 10th

On November 10th, Open Bible will be welcoming several new full-time members into our congregation. They are Klaus and Helga Maas, Christian Schmolke, Richie Davis, Ed and Marilyn Pearson, Fred and Judy Hainen, Ron and Mary Helen Schultz, and Gerald Mucci. Judy Hainen, our newest organist, will be leading

our worship. During the offering, her husband, Fred, who plays for the Ocala Symphony, will be playing a violin solo. A special welcoming celebration with cake will take place during our fellowship time together.

Celebration Service on November 17th as Anna Lind reaches the age of 100

On November 17th as we celebrate "Saints Triumphant" Sunday at Open Bible, it will also mark a milestone in the life of Anna Lind. She will be celebrating her 100th Birthday. At our fellowship time together after church, we will have a light lunch, a cake and some brief entertainment.

Friendship Sunday on November 24th

Start thinking now about bringing a friend to our Friendship Sunday on November 24th. The theme of the Sunday will be: "You have a King for a Friend!" Since the Sunday in the church year is "Christ the King Sunday", it will be appropriate to focus our attention on our best Friend, Jesus, who has made us all part of his royal family. The Open Bible choir is planning to sing the song, "What a Friend we have in Jesus" during the offering.

Thanksgiving Service November 28th at 10:30 AM

The time change for this Sunday will make it possible for the 35-40 members of Open Bible who have planned their Thanksgiving meal together at church, to do so shortly after the conclusion of the service. If you have no Thanksgiving meal plans, and would still like to join with the meal at church, please contact Doreen Schaefer (753-7515) or Gail Rathgeber (259-3173).

WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

Women of Open Bible will be meeting on Wed. November 13th at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Some of the items on the agenda will be the Ocala Bus Trip, Anna Lind's 100th birthday celebration, the ladies Christmas Party, and Advent by Candlelight.

Advent by Candlelight – Sunday, Dec. 8th – 6 pm.
Sign up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall starting
November 10th.

Hostesses for the Nov. meeting are Joanne
Stuedemann and Gloria Butzow.

Please consider joining us. This is a wonderful
opportunity to get better acquainted with your
Sisters in Christ.

Sandy Hahm, President

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER



Following the 10:30 am
Service on Thanksgiving Day,
we will gather in the
Fellowship Hall. We
are planning to eat by noon.

If you have not signed up, as of now, you still can
plan on enjoying dinner with your Open Bible
Family. There is always room at the table!

Any questions? Talk with Gail Rathgeber or
Doreen Schaefer. Just give them a call. Check off
the dish you will be bringing at the Kitchen pass
through.

You can sign up until we sit down to eat.

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Sunday Nov 24th and Thanksgiving Day

Please bring a "non perishable" food item. While
we are eating Turkey and Pumpkin Pie, let's give
thanks for how blessed we are. There are those
less fortunate than us and will be most grateful for
these gifts. Place them in the special basket in the
Fellowship Hall.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's church is off and running. We have 2
students who attend every other Sunday. They love
having their own Bible Time and find it exciting that
it is just for the two of them. We are blessed to
have 4 ladies willing to teach and one lady willing
to act as teacher's aide. Thank you Ina, Joanie,
Pam, PJ and Sally L. for your time!

S.P.L.A.S.H NEWS

(Single People Loving and Serving Him)

Our group had our first social outing via the way of
a delicious brunch at the Water Oak Sandwedge
Shop on October 13th. Fourteen were in
attendance and a good time was had by all. Those
attending were: Leslie Nelson, Stacy Vance, Dennis
Duessler, Joan Sanderson, Angelia Spengler, Barb
Hartshorn, Barb Matthias, Charlotte Cummings, Bill
Gebhard, Roger Acklam, Gunnard Fredrickson and
Ruth Vance.

Our next Bible Study/Fellowship meeting is
November 11th, at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
If you are single please join us.

VICTORY CELEBRATION

I am very grateful to God for His victory over my
cancer!

To celebrate, I would like to invite the congregation
to an Open House at our home on Saturday,
November 9th, from 2:00 to 5:00PM.

If you plan to come, kindly RSVP to 352-245-0939
or via email at juduand@yahoo.com.

Judy Anderson

EVANGELISM NEWS

Many new-comers have commented to me as to the enthusiastic greeting they have received. Keep it up, Open Bible!

Duane Anderson for our Outreach Committee

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Gordon & Shirley Roback – 9
Ron & Karen Dahm – 19
Mike & Carol Benrud – 25
Ken & Norma Phillips – 26
Bill & Sally Stocks – 26

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James Fehlhaber – 2
Dave Gonia – 5
Robert Miller – 8
Janis Liermann – 11
Anna Lind – 13
Jeri Leeper – 13
John Liermann – 14
Earl Schlicht – 19
Jackie Rousselo – 20
Ron Stuedemann – 22
Jerry Yahn – 22
Pastor Schulz – 23
Fred Rathgeber – 24
Linda Gustrowsky – 29
Jack Affeldt – 29