



## FROM THE PASTOR

### *Give Thanks Every Day*

Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well”

Luke 17:17-19

It’s that “extra-thankful” time of year again. On Thanksgiving Day, many in our country take a step back from their normal routines to ask, “Why should I be thankful?” Pause today to ponder this ... Have you ever thanked God that you do not have leprosy? Leprosy was worse than shingles!

Common in Jesus’ day, leprosy was a terrible affliction. It was painful—your fingers and skin would begin to decay even though you were still alive. It was emotional—who wants to be known as “dead man walking?” It was lonely—lepers could only live with other lepers miles away from everyone else. No hugging your kids. No kissing your spouse. No walking through your front door. No turkey dinner with your family—not on Thanksgiving Day or any day. Leprosy was a terrible affliction. The losses it caused were staggering.

One day, 10 lepers stood at a distance from Jesus (they had to stand at a distance from everyone) and in loud voices, asked him for mercy. Jesus simply told them to show themselves to the priests. If someone ever was healed of leprosy, you couldn’t just stroll back into town and say, “I don’t have leprosy anymore!” Who would believe you? First, you had to show yourself to the priests. They would officially pronounce you to be clean, and then you could go back to your family. As they started to walk, they were still lepers ... but along the way they were cleansed by the miraculous power of Jesus!

Nine of the lepers kept walking—too many things to do now since they were healed. However, one decided that resuming normal life could wait a couple more hours. He came back to thank Jesus. He threw himself at the

Lord’s feet and praised him in a loud voice. Imagine the joyful tears falling from his eyes!

Jesus has cleansed us of a far greater devastating condition than physical leprosy. The Bible teaches: “The blood of Jesus, God’s Son, purifies us from all sin” (1 John 1:9). Jesus has taken away our sin. We are no longer isolated from God; rather, we can live joyfully with him in peace. We have good reason to take a break from normal life to thank Jesus deeply, thoughtfully, gladly. Among all the blessings that God gives us in life, the most important is Jesus, our merciful and miraculous Savior!

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, you bless me with many good things in my life, but most importantly, I am blessed through your Son, Jesus. Help me treasure the spiritual life that I have by faith in him and not let anything else matter more. Amen.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

“If I had only known, I would have ...!” How many times have you or I began a sentence like that? I know it probably has occurred numerous times in our lives. And usually it involved the questioning of God’s wisdom, doubting of his love, or maybe anger at the fact that someone was enduring some kind of hardship. We may even have questioned what we perceived as his purpose for our own lives depending on the circumstance we were in. To really see God’s purpose, you have to truly trust God’s promises. As a child of God we have been called to take each step on this earthly pilgrimage “by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

As we approach another Thanksgiving holiday, certain of God’s unfailing love for us, we can look at everything that transpires in this life and give heartfelt thanks. The apostle Paul was a shining example of this. In his letter to the Christians in Thessalonica he wrote after the greeting, “we always thank God.” The Thessalonians stood firm in their faith in the Lord in the face of

persecution and Paul was filled with thankfulness to God. "Give thanks in all circumstances." Paul reminded them before ending his letter. To this day Paul's words remind us that thankfulness is the appropriate mind-set of a Christian. It's God's will that we be thankful in everything, at all times, in all circumstances.

Consider the fact that we brought nothing into this world when we were born and we take nothing out of it when we die. We will someday return to dust because of sins against our Lord. God in his never ending mercy provides everything along our way including everlasting life. Is not every breath something to thank God for? He continually pours out his grace on us through Word and Sacrament throughout our lives. This grace is so rich and powerful that it is able to change our hearts, sustain our lives, and lead us to do what is pleasing to God.

The phrase, "If I had only known," need not be spoken by those who have been called according to God's purpose. Our faith rests on those unbroken promises and the fulfillment of God's perfect purpose in our lives. This we know: He is at work at all times in our lives. Every detail may not be known to us, but when we put our cares into God's hands, He puts His peace into our hearts.

Remember this: The will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you. Pray, praise and give thanks.

May the God of all mercy and grace continue to bless all members of Open Bible and their families this Thanksgiving and always.

All God's blessings,  
Greg Wendorf

## WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

### PAT KRAMER



As I have mentioned before in previous newsletters, the uniqueness and exceptional abilities of our members never ceases to amaze me. This month's new member, Pat Kramer, was a prospective Olympic gymnast, a licensed airplane pilot, owner and operator of a cheerleader uniform business, a business administrative assistant, an orthopedic surgical first assistant, writer of a book, and currently is an avid golfer. Although Pat is

humble about her many accomplishments, I think we appreciate her willingness to share some of her history.

Pat grew up in Dayton, Ohio, with her doctor father and mother, who both helped her with the arduous task of attempting to become an Olympic gymnast. She was ultimately offered a scholarship to attend Kent State University, but Pat decided that a life dedicated to all the hours of practice and travel had burned her out.

She eventually married and three sons later, Pat opened an entrepreneurial business designing, producing and marketing cheerleader uniforms. The business actually became too large and too burdensome to continue and after eleven years, Pat decided it was enough. Pat's next adventure required extensive side by side training from her husband, Tom, an orthopedic surgeon, as she became his surgical assistant. Pat said if she could learn orthopedics, she could do anything.

But as with all of us, we have challenges which include high points and low points. In 1992, she suffered the loss of one of her sons. Around 1994, Pat felt God was moving her to write a book to comfort people in difficult times. She wrote the book, "The Little Book of Comfort", which was published by Andrews McMeel Publishing Company. Although it is no longer in print, it can be kindled through Amazon ISBN 0-7407-3356-7. Pat again is feeling the call to write another book dealing with life's challenges and may ultimately write book number two.

Pat and her husband, Tom, who have 12 grandchildren between them, purchased a home in the Village of Summerhill in 2004. In 2009 they retired and moved permanently to the Villages. Unfortunately, Tom suffered a very serious stroke in 2010 and continues to struggle with the physical difficulties of the stroke. Pat no longer is a pilot, but rather enjoys golf several times a week. We can credit one of Pat's golf partners, Chris Moelling, for inviting her to Open Bible.

Pat says she loves the members of Open bible and believes Pastor Mark Schultz is extraordinary. She feels a strong presence of God in our church. After completing bible instruction classes with Pastor Schultz, she is now a member. Her husband, Tom, has recently completed the classes and hopes to become a member soon.

Pat's response to my question, "what words of experience can you pass on to others" was ----"after the loss of my son, I suffered major depression and the lesson I learned was that as horrible and hopeless as life can seem sometimes, by the grace of God, it can turn right around and once again be beautiful".

By Michael Benrud

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY FOR NOV.

### **Sunday Morning Bible Study (Led by Pastor Schulz)**

“Let’s Be Joyful” a Study on Philipians.

Meeting in the front of church from 8:00-8:45 AM.

Sessions – November 4 weeks

### **Wednesday in the Word at 5:00 PM. (Led by Pastor Schulz)**

Revelation: Renew Your Vision (PowerPoint Study)  
Learn about what we face as Christians as we await the return of Jesus Christ. Discover what the Battle of Armageddon really is, how false teaching will cause many to fall, and enjoy graphic portrayals of heaven. Meets thru November.

### **SPLASH Single People Loving and Serving Him (Led by Pastor Dale)**

Meeting twice a month, once for study, and once for recreational activities.

Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM Orange Blossom Opry in Weirsdale going to see: The Amazing Kreskin.

Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM - Bible Study on Ephesians 1. Please bring 1 or 2 questions from this chapter.

Coordinators: Joan Sanderson, Nancy Rodriguez, and Angela Spengler

### **North Country Group (Led by Alan Johnson)**

Meeting twice a month on Sundays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Meeting at the home of Dave & Kim Mottl November 9<sup>th</sup> & Alan & Pam Johnson- November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Topic: Whole Bible Project: James.

### **466 A Group and Vicinity (Led by Pastor Schulz)**

This group will meet twice a month on Tuesdays.

Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 PM at the home of Jim & Sandy Fehlhaber. Topic: Study on The Prodigal God.

### **MEN’S BREAKFAST GROUP (Led by Dennis Duessler)**

Men at Leisure Boat Trip/Bible Study Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Meet at Carney Island at 8:00 AM. Boat rented until noon. Lunch at Gator Joe’s. Limited seating so sign up early.

### **The Truth Project (Led by Armand Occhetti)**

Mondays, November – January 5<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

Here are a few Topics: Veritology: What is Truth? Philosophy and Ethics: Says Who? Anthropology: Who Is Man? Theology: Who Is God? Plus More...

### **WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY (Led by Judy Anderson)**

**Prayer: An Audience with a King by Joel Petermann**

Looks at prayer from this perspective: Jesus is the King and you are his subject. Every time you pray, you are going before the King. Improve your prayer life by using scriptural guidelines to approach your Redeemer-King— Last session: Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM, here at Open Bible.

### **New Life in Christ (Pastor Schulz)**

Group meets at church on Fridays thru November at 3:00 PM. This is a class for people interested in becoming a member and a good refresher course for members. It is a wonderful review of the basic teachings of Scripture.

### **Open Bible Book Club (Pastor Schulz)**

Group meets at church on Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.

Forgive Us Our Sins by Scott I. Barefoot

### **Women of Open Bible (Led by Sandy Hahm)**

Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM for service, spiritual growth, fellowship, and recreation. This month Card Making with Pam Johnson. Bring your own scissors. Meets September-May.

### **Quilters of Open Bible (Led by Ruth Niermeyer)**

Meets on the First Friday of each month at church at 9:00-12:00 PM. First meeting will be November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Group creates quilts for those in need in our community.

### **Fellowship Group (Led by Joe and Paula Malec)**

Meets once a month for a recreational activity. This month we will celebrate Reformation Sunday with a German-fest Dinner. November 2<sup>nd</sup> 4:30 – 6:30 PM.

### **Adult Choir (Led by Stacy Vance)**

Meets on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 PM.

### **GRIEF CARE**

**GRIEF CARE (Facilitated by Patricia Major )**

Video-based small group to help those who have lost a loved one in death. Tuesdays, 2:00 – 3:30 PM. Last meeting will be November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Defenders (Led by Ken Wells and Bill Sigurdson)**

Meets Friday November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 AM.

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The church council met on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Here are the highlights from the meeting:

- August expenses were \$6,382 more than income. The mortgage balance as of 9/30/14 was \$411,029. Property insurance has increased to \$8,000.
- Various options for expanding / modifying the existing church building were discussed. It was decided to further explore 3 possible options.
  1. Remove the walls of the current secretary's office and make that part of the entry into the church building. Build a wall from the doorway to Pastor's office to the other side of the fellowship hall. Use the current Pastor's office as the Secretary's office. Use the current conference room as the Pastor's office.
  2. Extend the building to the east with a new fellowship hall of 2,000 – 3,000 square feet in size. Add additional parking spaces on the grass just outside the fellowship hall. There would be an outside door into the fellowship hall so some members could use that parking area leaving more parking for guests in the main parking area.
  3. Extend the building to the North by expanding the current sacristy areas. The additional space would be used for a Choir room, counters room, alter guild / flower room, and additional storage.
- A banner will be purchased to be hung from a table when the Choir sings at Christmas in the Courtyard in Wildwood on December 6<sup>th</sup>. It could also be used at similar activities in the future.
- It was decided that in the future if a medical emergency occurs during a church service, the service will be halted until the emergency can be dealt with.

## VETERAN'S RECOGNITION

There will be a special recognition of our Veterans in our November 9<sup>th</sup> Worship service.

We will have a special responsive prayer for our soldiers, and all Veterans will receive a gift of Christian dog tags that day.



## WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

Women of Open Bible will be meeting on Wed. November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Plans for our Christmas party will be discussed at this meeting. We will also be making a greeting card so please bring a pair of scissors.

Hostesses for the Nov. meeting are Mary Helen Schultz and Judy Anderson.

### Advent by Candlelight – Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm.



Sign up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall starting November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please plan to join us for an evening of

fellowship, dessert and devotion and invite your friends too! If you have any questions ask Joanne Stuedemann or Sandy Hahn.

## THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER



Last year after our 10:30 AM Thanksgiving service a meal was served that fed 65 people. It was a great way to gather with our

Open Bible family, if you had no family plans. Consider joining us again this year. Gail Rathgeber and Doreen Schaefer will be overseeing the planning of this meal which will follow the Thanksgiving service on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Gail and Doreen are in need of help for the set-up and clean-up. A sign-up sheet is located at the kitchen entry. If you have no family plans for Thanksgiving Day, please consider signing up to join us for a great meal and fellowship.

### **MEN OF LEISURE with CAPTAIN DUESSLER**



The Men of Leisure are planning a boat trip and Bible study on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Carney Island at 8:00 AM. The cost of the

trip is \$12.50 per person. There is a parking fee of \$5.00 so carpooling is encouraged. The boat is rented until 12:00 noon. Lunch will be at Gator Joe's at your own expense.

If you have any questions, speak to Captain Dennis Duessler. Let me encourage all men of Open Bible to consider joining us that day. It will be a great fellowship activity. A sign-up sheet will be located at the Kitchen Entryway.

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Gordon & Shirley Roback – 9  
Ron & Mary Helen Schultz – 16  
Ron & Karen Dahm – 19  
Mike & Carol Benrud – 25  
Ken & Norma Phillips – 26  
Bill & Sally Stocks – 26

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

James Fehlhaber – 2  
Dave Gonias – 5  
Janis Liermann – 11  
Anna Lind – 13  
Jeri Leeper – 13  
John Liermann – 14  
Kathy Griffin – 18  
Earl Schlicht – 19  
Pat Kramer – 20  
Jackie Rousselo – 20  
Ron Stuedemann – 22  
Jerry Yahn – 22  
Pastor Schulz – 23  
Fred Rathgeber – 24  
Linda Gustrowsky – 29  
Jack Affeldt – 29