



# Newsletter



October 2019

Volume 14 No. 10

## From the Pastor by Pastor Mark Schulz

From time to time, a church needs to evaluate its life and ministry in the light of changing circumstances both within the congregation and the environment in which the church is placed. What is the church doing effectively? What new challenges need to be responded to? How faithful is the present ministry to the central thrust of the Gospel? What trends in society and within the congregation suggest how the church's ministry should be shaped in the time ahead?

It's important for a church to make long-range plans responsive to what we know about present circumstances and what we anticipate in the future. Because of this, the Church Council, in mid 2019, appointed a Long Range Planning Committee to undertake such a task. The chairman of this committee is Gerry Hughes. The members of the planning committee are: Jim Fehlhaber, Alan Johnson, Carol Kerkhof, Mark Mehlberg, Ruth Ann Niermeyer, Dan Pearson, Carole Sheidler, Barbra Cain Smith, and Carmen Smith. Pastor Schulz and President Greg Wendorf will serve as advisors. This long range planning committee will meet 3 times before year end. They will look at the vision and goals we set in 2017 and see how we have done. They will attempt to put together a roadmap of where they feel the Lord is leading us in the years to come by setting a 1 year, 3 year, and 10 year vision. Keep this planning

committee in your prayers as they will submit their recommendations to the Church Council, and then to the Voters' at our January 2020 meeting. Where will we focus in the years to come? Will we expand our music ministry at Open Bible? Will we expand our work at the independent living homes? Will we make a greater effort at family ministry? Will we focus more on the Villages community? Will we start a new mission? Where is the Lord directing us to reach more souls in our immediate community?

If we were to increase staffing at Open Bible, what are some ideas that the long range planning committee should consider? Here are some ideas:

1. Part-time Staff Minister of Music and Small Groups: Randy Cochran is retiring as Principal/Teacher from King of Kings in May 2020. He is approximately 60 years old and is still interested in ministry. He is an accomplished organist, and could help in coordinating and assisting our music ministry. He could lead small group ministry.
2. Part time Retired Pastor: Pastor could share in preaching responsibilities when needed, and oversee many different small groups.
3. Staff Minister of Music (Guitar) and Small group: He could oversee our worship services and bring his guitar at times into our liturgical service. He could oversee small groups in our congregation.
4. Staff Minister of Music Ministry & Family Ministry: This would be a woman trained in our church body to oversee our music ministry at Open Bible, and to seek to engage younger families, with the possibility of beginning the process of a child daycare center, or VPK program.

Please share any thoughts you have about Open Bible and its future with Gerry Hughes, the chairman of our Long range planning committee.

## President's Message

Many years ago, a television program entitled "Kids Say the Darndest Things" hosted by Art Linkletter, was enjoyed by lots of people who had young children as well as by a like number of grandparents. I'll bet many of us can remember some of the very unique ideas these children had. It appears the program is returning to national T.V. in early October and I'm sure we will enjoy it as much now as we did then.

I recently ran across the following example of potentially what is in store for us. What makes this even more unique is it was written by an eight-year-old boy living in California as a part of a school homework assignment to explain God. I wonder if we could have done as well and I hope you enjoy.

*"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers."*  
*"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. He doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this."*

*"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which*

*keeps Him pretty busy. So, you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."*

*"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K."*

*"His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth, so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important."*

*"You can pray anytime you want, and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time."*

*"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!"*

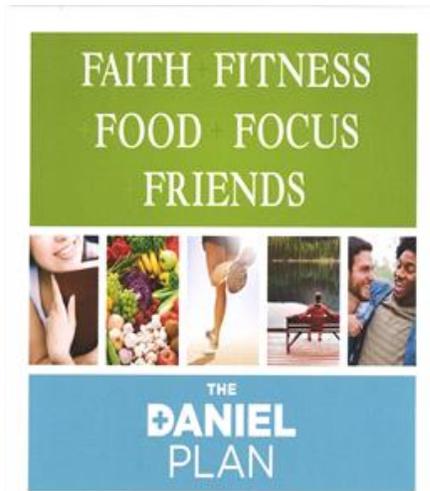
*"Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."*

*"But....you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God*

*put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And.....that's why I believe in God."*

Pretty sound advice don't you think? Next time you pause for prayer, ask God to give you a dose of the wisdom of a young child and the ability to put it in its proper perspective. It may make a difference in your life.

*All God's Blessings,*  
Greg Wendorf



## The Daniel Plan 40 Days to a Healthier Life

**Meets Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:30 pm.  
At Open Bible church.**

A six-session video based small group study will be centered on five essentials that will launch your journey to health: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. God designed your body to be healthy and he provided everything you need to thrive and live an abundant life. The Daniel Plan small group study teaches simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your daily lifestyle. As Pastor of Open Bible Lutheran Church, I need to lose about 40 pounds to get my

body back where it should be as the temple of the Holy Spirit. I have tried Weightwatchers, Atkins, and other plans, but all have eventually failed. Why I am leading this study? My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I need a lifestyle plan for health that incorporates God's Word.

Anyone is welcome to join us for these studies, whether you are overweight or not.

**October 1st:** Fitness

**October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Focus

**October 15<sup>th</sup>:** Christian Friends

Once the course is completed, there are two 4-week maintenance sessions on Focus and Faith.



**Get Healthy God's Way!**  
with **The Daniel Plan - God's Prescription For Your Health**

Join us for a six session video based study centered on five essentials that will launch your journey to health: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. Learn how to incorporate healthy choices into your daily lifestyle. Sessions will be facilitated by Pastor Mark Schulz, who lost 30 pounds on the program.

**Starting Tuesday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Sessions are every Tuesday, beginning Sept 10th thru Oct 15th  
4:00-5:30 P.M.

**Call Church office to Register: 352-753-9038**  
Cost: \$25.00 for workbook, journal, and hardcover book

**Open Bible Lutheran Church**  
4671 Bellwether Lane - Oxford, FL 34484

## "Mornings with Mommy"



We had a nice group of children for our Mornings with Mommy session! Lots of energy! Our theme was God Bless America. We had a Bible story, sang,

painted firework paintings, made Uncle Sam masks and had a parade! What fun God has in store for these children. Our next session is October 1st theme is All About Me, so spread the news! Please call or text to preregister 989-450-1937, or use our Facebook page.



## "Serving the Savior" This Month

We would like to acknowledge Bill and Sharon Sigurdson for "Serving the Savior" for the month of October. Bill and Sharon Sigurdson have been active members almost from the beginning of Open Bible Lutheran Church. They collect crushed & washed aluminum cans every two weeks and give the proceeds to Open Bible's WinGS (Women in Gods Service) -LWMS



(Lutheran Womens Missionary Society) for their working fund.

Bill collects the mite boxes; counts and rolls change and this goes to LWMS for missions.

Bill has been our church representative for Thrivent from the beginning of our church.

Bill has been the Financial Secretary since shortly after Pastor Schulz became our Pastor. Bill is also a regular counter of the monies after our services. He and Sharon helped fold the bulletins and changed the hymn boards before John Marks.

Sharon was one of the organists for years and now accompanies Pastor Schulz at Steeplechase every Sunday by playing the piano.

Thank you, Bill and Sharon, you are very much loved here at Open Bible!

## 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 2nd**-To Marry or Not to Marry

**October 9th**-Your Rights and the Needs of Others

**October 16th**-Taking Temptation Seriously

**October 23rd**-Gifts for Service

**October 30th**-Meaningful Worship

### 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 October will be: Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.and October 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to host October 8th 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. See more on the bulletin board and sign up there.

### 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:

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>: Genie Selvey

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> Judy Hainen

Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>: Lois Klatt

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>: Kay Blan

### 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.

Reading music is not necessary.

Choir: Music Director is Judy Hainen. Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:05pm.



WE NEED YOU! Judy Hainen and Pam Johnson are extending welcomes to all new members of OBL Choir and Bell Choir. Choir rehearses at 6:05 pm on Wednesdays. We need a few more singers. Please consider joining.

Handbell Choir practices at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings. We need two more people to play the bells. Reading music is NOT a requirement.

Please talk with Pam and/or Judy if you are interested. Join one or both choirs! What a privilege it is to make music unto our Lord!

### 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 October 18th.

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 (New President)

WinGS October meeting will be Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

### Fellowship Group

Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson, Joe & Paula Malec.

The fellowship group is meeting to see what activities we can do during the year. So, stay tuned!

**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 46 on October 14th 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.

**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 October 5<sup>th</sup>:



Nehemiah 2.

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, October 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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, October 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

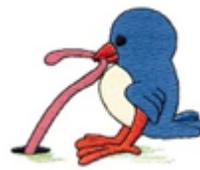
Caring for Caregivers is a support group at Open Bible. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm. On October 3 there will be a presentation about **Caregiver**

**Burnout.** Anyone is welcome, especially caregivers of all kinds. Some participants are former caregivers who come to support caregivers on active duty.

Do you know a caregiver who could benefit from this sharing, learning experience? Invite her/him to come with you to the October 3 meeting.

Pastor Dale, facilitator

**Early Bird Bible Study:** Led by Pastor Mark Schulz Sundays from 8:00 – 8:50 am.



As the hymnal of Old Testament Israel and a critical part of New Testament worship services, the book of

Psalms is a treasure for believers across history. Many have favorite verses that they return to when facing trouble, sorrow, or joy.

**Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks----** In *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks*, we focus on nine popular psalms. This Bible study will help students discover the meaning of each psalm in the contexts of all Scripture and their own present-day lives.

Join us as we take a deeper look into the popular psalms on Sundays.

Topics:

**October 6th-** "Psalm 51: Dear God, Cleanse Me From My Sin"

**October 13th-** "Psalm 73: Why Do the Wicked Prosper While the Godly Suffer?"

**October 20th-** "Psalm 103: Praise the Lord; He Has Mercy on His Children"

**October 27th-** "Psalm 110: The Messiah Will Be a Priest and King Forever"

**Altar Guild:** Leader: Mary Burel

The fall season is upon us with the cooler weather. The Altar Guild is looking forward to the festival season toward the years' end.

All members are invited to the fall bi-annual meeting. The meeting will be held at church Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am.

We look forward to the service of our Lord and the beauty of the chancel to the Glory of God.

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.



**LWMS News:**

Fall is here and it is a bust time across the state as the Florida circuits of LWMS are preparing for the Fall Rallies. The North Florida circuit Fall Rally will be Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Port Orange, Florida. Our speakers, Pastor Jeff and Stephanie Heitsch will be talking about changes. Changes in location, changes in life, changes in ministry. However, there is one thing that doesn't change...Jesus Christ! There has been information in the Sunday bulletins as a reminder. The sign-up sheet for attending is located at the entrance to the fellowship hall.

If attending, please sign up by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

At the fall and Spring Mission rallies we send in our mission offering. Our WinGS ladies put money into the collection at our monthly meetings specific to support the chosen missions. Last spring, we thought we would like to give women in the congregation the opportunity to play a role in funding mission projects. We made up mission boxes for all the ladies in the church and gave them a box that they could take home and put coins in over the spring and summer to give to the missions. Thanks to the generous offerings from our congregation ladies \$640.00 was turned in. With that and the \$250.00 from the WinGS group, we were able to send in \$890.00 to our circuit to support missions both home and the world. The North Florida Circuit Treasurer sent an email thanking us for the generous offering. Thank you to all who used the mission boxes to give to this offering.

Serving Christ together,

*Peggi Carrier, Reporter*

**New Bible Study at Senior Facilities**

Changes are coming for Senior Home Bible Studies. First, the study at Buffalo Crossings is switching from Wednesdays to the first, third and fifth Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Second, on October 15 and 16 a new study will begin: "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 below but watch the weekly bulletin for reminders.

Schedule:

**October 1**, Buffalo Crossings (1:00 pm):  
The Miracles of Jesus

**October 2 and 9**, Carriage House  
(10:00 am) and The Willows (11:00 am):  
The Miracles of Jesus

**October 15 and 29**, Buffalo Crossings  
(1:00 pm): Top 40 Most Helpful  
Messianic Prophecies

**October 16, 23 and 30**, Carriage House  
(10:00 am) and The Willows (11:00 am):  
Top 40 Most Helpful Messianic  
Prophecies.

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.

## Did You Know?



**Can Collection:** Bring your "crushed" & "rinsed" cans to church on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

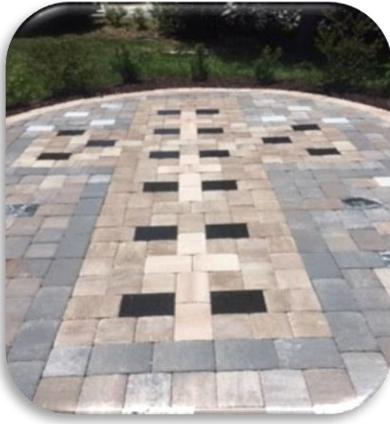
**The 2019 Flower Calendar** has been

## 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.



**Save the Date:  
Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

Right after the Worship Service, there will a dedication to the new Memorial Garden with food provided. The Board of Elders will provide the Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Baked Beans & Individual bags of potato chips. Please sign-up if you are planning on attending.

Optional: If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet.

**The Willows Yard Sale:**

We have been invited to set up a table at The Willows Yard Sale Event to hand out information about Open Bible. This will be on **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 3:00 pm.** There is a sign-up sheet on the counter by the Fellowship Hall. Time slots are from 7:30am (set-up) to 3:30 pm (clean-up.) **Please consider helping to share God’s message!** (The Willows will donate all proceeds to the Alzheimer’s Family Organization.)



**Happy  
Anniversary**

- Mike & Gloria Butzow – 3
- Dave & Dianne Bliss – 8
- Ron & Christina Moellring – 8
- Huns & Linda Gustrowsky – 9
- Les & Carol Stauske – 11
- Dennis & Pat Knack – 21
- Bill & Mary Whitford - 26
- Duane & Judy Anderson – 28

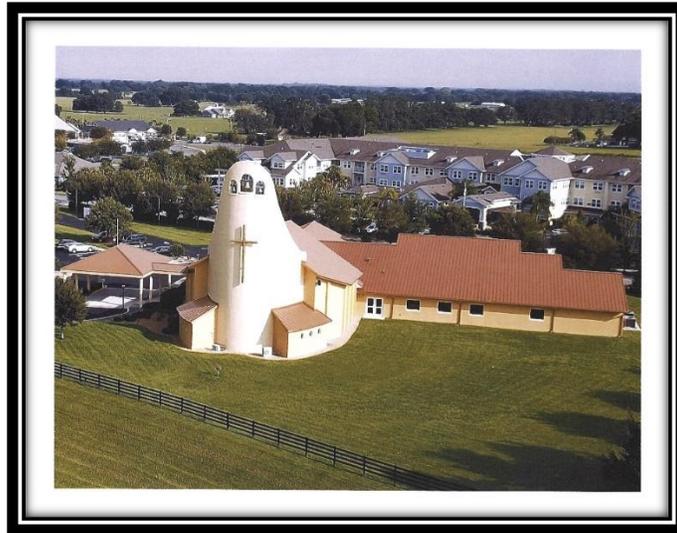


**Happy Birthday**

- Bette McConkey – 4
- Matthew Hand - 13
- Carol Beetch - 13
- Sandy Fehlhaber – 17
- Dennis Duessler – 17
- Richard Mason - 20
- Corinne Mahoney - 23
- Dave Buss – 26
- Herb Schaefer – 29

***Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Pastor Mark M Schulz  
4671 Bellwether Lane  
Oxford, FL 34484  
352-753-9038, 989-525-5514  
Pastor Rodger Dale: 352-901-1162***

**“Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known”**  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)  
[www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com](http://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.

