



Newsletter



October 2020

Volume 15 No. 10

From the Pastor by Pastor Mark Schulz

**“I Become All Things to All Men so
That by All Possible means
I might save some.”**

1 Corinthians 9:22

The apostle Paul was someone who would never compromise the truth of God’s Word. However, at times, to reach more souls for Christ, he adjusted to the people around him. The Jewish people had ceremonial laws that they had followed for years. They would only eat kosher food, they kept the Sabbath and the festival days, made sacrifices and followed the rite of circumcision. These laws were to keep Israel as a tight knit nation until the Messiah would come, they pointed to the Messiah.

Once Jesus came, these laws were no longer needed, they were a shadow of things to come, the reality was found in Jesus Christ. However, when Paul was around Jews, he followed these laws, in order not to offend them, and also to have a chance to witness his faith in Christ to them. As time went on the Jews would see that these laws were no longer required, but they still had the freedom to participate in them.

At Open Bible Lutheran Church, we will never compromise the truth of God’s Word. At the same time, we want to adjust to the people around us, who are looking to connect with a church. Unchurched people who may be searching for a church are looking for an inspirational worship service, a good

message, and friendly people where they can cultivate a friendship. At Open Bible, we have had a set liturgical worship service, basically Service of the Word, Service of Word and Sacrament for 10 years. We have sung hymns mostly from our hymnbook. And if you are honest, many of those hymns are difficult to sing, and sound quite dismal. An unchurched person is looking for songs that are easy to sing, and uplifting. At times, we need to think more about others and their needs, vs. the way we have always done things that fit our comfortability factor. Obviously, there are parts of our liturgical service that should always be included. We should have a confession of our sins and the announcement of forgiveness. We should have Scripture readings, and a message based on one of those readings. We should regularly say the Creed, have prayers for our church family and say the Lord’s Prayer. The blessing at the end of the service is wonderful and should be kept.

But there are ways to make our liturgical worship service more meaningful where we glorify our Savior and edify his people. Why not use the well-known hymns from our hymnal on a more regular basis? These hymns are appealing not only to us but to first-time guests. Why not introduce new songs, packed with good wording, that are uplifting and meaningful? Why not make use of the piano, organ, and other instruments on a more regular basis? Why not sing the creed, or have new responses between our readings?

Our new staff minister, Randy Cochran, is keeping the basics of our traditional worship service, but adding new music and responses. He has put together a large print bulletin that looks professional, and it includes the words and notes to songs we may not be familiar with. Randy himself or a soloist introduces new songs to us. We have the same basic worship format for one month straight, but then we move on to a new liturgical format.

Open Bible is on the move to reach more souls for Christ. At the present time, we have what the unchurched are looking for. Open Bible has an edifying worship service, a good message, and loving and caring people. Let's invite our friends to join this great church God has given to us. Go Open Bible!

President's Message

In the past few months, we have witnessed events and behaviors that should not occur and certainly not be tolerated. You would think by this time in our history we would have learned enough life lessons to treat people well and get along with each other. Just look at Facebook on any given day and you will see examples of how not to treat your fellow man.

Instead of focusing on the negative, I would rather share four beautiful examples of behaviors I'm sure God approved of.

Lesson one – Pickup in the rain. One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American Woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict –

filled 1960's. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others." Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

Lesson two – Always remember those who serve.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" He inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have a plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier, and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae,

because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

Lesson three – The obstacle in our path.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents as opportunity to improve our condition.

Lesson four – Giving when it counts.

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a

moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

None of us can cure all of our societal issues, but all of us can help someone in need. And when we help, we serve Jesus.

Find encouragement in the grace of God which he gives to us through Jesus. By His undeserved Mercy and Grace, the Father shares His Love with sinners like us. He encourages us with His Grace filled Love to face whatever challenges life brings.

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

Music & Education Report By Randy Cochran

WORSHIP

I will use this space every month to explain how worship services are planned at Open Bible. This month: **The Format.**

You have noticed that the format changes **every month**. September was a non-liturgical format (a more contemporary approach). October will be a liturgical format (a more traditional approach). The plan is to alternate back and forth **every month**, in order to

simultaneously offer consistency and variety. With that said, you still might see something “traditional” pop up in a contemporary format and vice versa. This can be referred to as “blended worship”, where old and new are intertwined.

Our worship committee meets once per month to plan and discuss worship. It is chaired by Fred Hainen. There are usually about eight of us in attendance.

HANDBELLS

Handbells are meeting and will be playing about once per month.

CHOIR

Our small choir is meeting and will be singing about twice per month.

ASSISTED LIVING VISITS

The Carriage House is the first assisted living establishment to allow me to visit. My scheduled day is Mondays at 11 AM. We have a short devotion/Bible study, followed by singing time. I had eight attendees my first visit and six this past Monday...during which I was competing with a flu shot clinic. I am limited to about ten guests due to COVID-19 guidelines. I think we can consistently reach our ten-person limit once the word gets out that I am now there on a regular basis.

466A BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our first study took place with eight folks in attendance. Our Bible study topic: World Religions. All are invited...not just the 466A neighborhoods. Next study is October 27, Tuesday, 2-3 PM in the church fellowship-hall. Among other things, come learn about the 5 Pillars of Islam and the Mormons “sacred undergarments.”

SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him)

Our kickoff event took place with fourteen attendees. We are planning an outing to Singing River Tours in October. At our next October meeting, we will spend time writing inspirational messages to those in prison.

CAREGIVERS

Our first event was recently held with twenty-five attending...a one-hour workshop led by Mel Parker, former Open Bible member and retired insurance administrator. He reviewed the steps one needs to take before and when a loved one dies. If you missed this presentation, let me know. We can either get you a copy of the workshop or, if enough interested, hold another workshop here at church.

I have personally contacted six members who might need some assistance in caring for a loved one. I offered to sit with their loved ones so that they can have some time to themselves.

I also offered to run errands for them if needed. Many thanked me for the offer, but feel my assistance is not needed at this time.

I will continue to monitor all caregiver situations so that assistance can be rendered if requested.

Serving Him,
Randy Cochran
Music and Education



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

The Church Council met on August 6th, 2020.

Items discussed included:

1. General fund activity for August was positive due to having five Sundays. Expenses down too, partly due to Synod not requiring payment for August health insurance.
2. Looking to open a business Amazon account.
3. Audit needs to be conducted for the year. Ted will make the arrangements.
4. New member accepted into membership (Joanne Snyder). Pastor has been making evangelism visits from contacts he has made with folks watching the live stream via Facebook.
5. Services will begin again at Carriage House and Steeplechase.
6. Elders will contact each assisted living home in our area to offer golf cart rides to church.
7. Resume 1st and 3rd communion in October to encourage people coming back to church.

*Yours in Christ:
Randy Cochran*

"Serving the Savior" This month



We would like to acknowledge Sandy Pawlowski this month. She has been a member of Open Bible Church for more than 10 years.

She is currently the facilitator of the "Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork" group. This is a group of ladies that meet on the third Friday of the month from 9:00 am until noon. They join together to make beautiful quilts for our members and friends of Open Bible. Quilts have been hand-made to comfort sick children, new mothers, grandkids, adults in the hospital, or caregivers.

So, if you have a knitting, crochet or an embroidery project you are working on, join the group for fellowship as you work on your project!

Sandy has also helped plan (along with Carol Yahn) fun game nights, days, and special card games. Hopefully this activity will resume next year.

Sandy has been an important part of the WinGS group (Women in God's Service.) At this present time, she is filling in for our secretary - Carol Benrud. And she has served in the kitchen for Fellowship on Sundays and special occasions.

She also sings Alto in our church Choir.

Thank you Sandy for all you do to Serve!

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Small Group Ministry

as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of Open Bible Lutheran Church (or an organization of your choice.) You can use your existing account, and everything will be the same on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.

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The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The Amazon Smile Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation created by Amazon. Amazon pays all expenses of the Amazon Smile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile. These are not tax deductible by you. They will send their donations directly to Open Bible Lutheran Church on a quarterly basis.

If you have any questions, please speak to Karen Pearson, Church Secretary or Ted Hahm Church Treasurer.

It looks like some of our small groups are beginning to have meetings.

Wednesday in the Word:

Led by Pastor Mark Schulz – a Bible Study: **Living Under Socialism in The United States**

The United States is looking at being changed from a capitalist society to a socialist society, where individual freedoms will be removed, and all will look to the government to supply its needs.

Learn how Daniel coped in a society that was hostile to Christian beliefs and told what to believe.

Wednesday In the Word:

5:00 P.M. On-site & 7:00 P.M. Zoom

October 7th: The Government is Under God in How Long It Rules

October 14th: No class – Pastor on vaca.

October 21st: The Pagan Government & Anti-Christ will be Defeated

466A Group Bible Study

Led by Randy Cochran

This is a group especially for those who live around the area of 466A. There are plans to meet at church, once a month. Bible Study will be held at church on October 27th, Tuesday, at 2 PM.

Our Bible Study Topic: World Religions.

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson. Handbells will



meet on Sunday, September 6th at 11:00 am. Right now we will be playing with only 2 octaves. If you are interested,

please contact Pam Johnson.

Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork

Led by: Sandy Pawlowski

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. They will be meeting on the third Friday of the month from 9:00 am until noon. Social distancing (1-2) per table. Masks must be worn.



WinGS:

Women in God's Service



WINGS
WOMEN IN GODS SERVICE

Led by: Genie Selvey
WinGS will have their next monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. Sept. – May.

We will have our next meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SPLASH: Single People Loving and Serving Him

Led by: Randy Cochran
SPLASH:



is an organization for singles. We have a Bible Study and brief meeting the second Monday each month.

Next Meeting, Monday, October 12th at 1:00 pm. **Bible Study & Prison Ministry Letter Writing Gathering...**

If possible, stop at a Dollar Store and bring a box or two of Thanksgiving themed note cards with envelopes. If you have a favorite writing pen, bring that too. I'll have some sample letters and list of thoughts you could include in the letters you write. **Singing River Tours...**It's planned for October 26, Monday. The tour starts at 10 AM. We will need to leave church by 8:30. It

will last 1 hour 45 minutes. They can handle up to 20 people. \$20 per person. They will take cash or check. We will go out for lunch afterwards at the Blue Gator Tiki Bar...just down the road. Look for the sign-up sheet on the counter.

Please, consider recycling your older Meditations to the WELS Prison Ministry. They are gathered and sent to the prison ministry office and from there, distributed to prison served by the ministry throughout the country. The Meditations can be placed in Peggi Carrier's mailbox or the box on the counter labeled for Meditations. It is noted that they are snapped up by the Christians behind bars.

North Country Group

Facilitator: Alan Johnson
Meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 6:00 pm at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. All are welcome to join, contact Alan Johnson if interested. Starting date **TBD**.

Men of Leisure:



Led by:Dennis Duessler
Meeting on the second Friday of the month at 8:30 am at Bob Evans on CR466.

The next meeting will be Friday, October 9th.

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. Still meeting!

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pam Johnson Meeting Tuesdays at Open Bible (check back when it will resume)

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. Still meeting!

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.

Choir: Music Director is *Randy*



Cochran. The council has instructed Randy **NOT** to organize a traditional choir at this time due to

COVID. We will continue to use small groups to assist in worship. If you are interested, please contact Randy. We will meet on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00 pm in the church sanctuary.

Caring for Caregivers

Is caring for Caregivers for you or someone you know?

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.

Do you know a caregiver who could benefit from this sharing, learning experience? All past, present and potential caregivers are welcome. Invite other caregivers to be your guest.

If you are a caregiver, it could be that you can't leave your spouse at home by themselves. Or, it is difficult to find someone to watch them when you need to leave the house.

Please consider this. I am willing, along with other Open Bible members, to come sit with your spouse for a period of time so you can run errands, meet with friends, etc. Or, perhaps we can help by running the errands for you...such as shopping or picking up meds. Maybe we can help prepare a few meals and drop them off?

You might even have some other suggestions!

Please prayerfully consider this offer and get back with me if you are interested in these services.

You can e-mail me at randy.cochran78@gmail.com or call me at 407-637-4876. I look forward to hearing from you!

Randy Cochran, facilitator.

New Life in Christ

New Life in Christ Bible Study, Led By Pastor Schulz: This class will be offered when needed.

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.

Altar Guild: Altar Guild 2020 meeting scheduled on October 12th at 10:00AM in the church Fellowship Hall. Women parishioners interested in participating are invited to attend the October meeting. If you have any questions, contact Diane Olsen, Bonnie Farnsworth or Barb Matthias.

Early Bird Bible Study:



Led by Pastor Mark Schulz. Usually meets on Sunday mornings before church. Start date **TBD.**

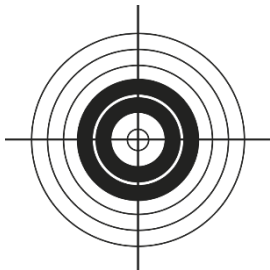
Mornings with Mommy



Jane Valley is the director and if you are interested in helping her, please give her a call at

989-450-1937. We expect 8 – 10 children. They will meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month. First meeting will be Tuesday, October 6th & 20th 9:30 – 11:00am. Please contact Jane Valley if you have a child (up to age 5) that would like to attend.

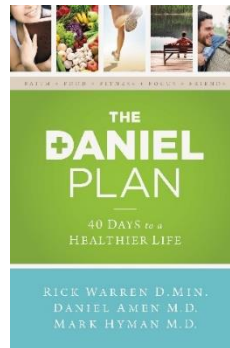
The Defenders: Led by: Bill Sigurdson



The Defenders will meet on Thursday, November 5th 11:30am at Wolfy's Restaurant located at 2159 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala at After

lunch on to R&D Tactical located at 1031 NE 16th St, Ocala for a little target practice.

**The Daniel Plan
40 Days to a Healthier Life**



This six-session video based small group study is 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 went from 265 to 220 on this program, and have maintained my weight around 220 during the past year. I still have 10 pounds to go to reach my goal weight of 210. 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.

Monday Nights: 7:00 P.M. for 7 weeks

October 5th: Focus: *Renewing Your Mind*

October 12th: *Fitness: Strengthening Your Body*

October 19th: *Friends: Encouraging Each Other*

LWMS News

Thank you to all the people who placed bids on the baskets for the Send One Sister Silent Auction. We raised \$163.00 to send to the North Florida Circuit to add to the fund. It will be used to send one first time attending member from the circuit to the 2021 LWMS Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio the last weekend in June.

I decided to share the September greeting to all LWMS members from our president, Cynthia Natsis. I hope you enjoy her encouraging words.

September Notes

I have been listening to a lot of devotions since the pandemic changed our lives. Maybe you are too. I find that they soothe my restless spirit and calm me when I might turn toward anger and despair. But have you ever heard a phrase in a devotion that just sticks with you—a phrase that speaks to your heart and helps you through these difficult times? I have. I have leaned on this one special phrase so much the past few months that its theme has become a constant refrain in my brain: “For your good and for God’s glory!” This is the theme that has helped me on so many occasions this past summer. Philippians 4:19 is the Bible verse that reminds us of this truth. It says, “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

God will meet all our needs. That is our Lord making sure that everything happens for our good. Notice, it does not say God will give us everything we want. It says God will meet our needs. God will make sure that we have everything we need. All the things that have happened around us will reflect his glory. I saw this in the Taste and See event this summer. God’s glory was shown in the worship, the devotions, the mission speakers, and

in the wonderful donations that came through from you, his people, for our WELS missions—almost \$80,000 for the glory of the Lord!

This has been a tough summer, and we are not through all the hard times yet. So, when you get down and need reassurance of the Lord’s will for you, think of the Philippians verse. Think of my favorite refrain. Whatever you are going through is all “for your good and for God’s glory!”

Blessings, my friends. Stay safe.
Cynthia Natsis LWMS president

Pause for Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. You are both the sower of the seed and the Lord of the Harvest, and you have given us the privilege of working with you in your fields. For your glory and the eternal good of your people, we ask you to bless this work. There are many fields filled with thorns where it might seem your Word would not flourish and yet by your power it has. In various countries in the Middle East where your work has been forbidden by the powers of this world your work has borne beautiful fruit. Keep your workers safe. Allow them to see the importance of the message they share for themselves and the people they reach. Strengthen your newly growing fruit as they battle the thorns which oppose them. Unite us in love and purpose so that wherever opportunities arise we may give what aid and assistance we can and keep us close until the great day of your Harvest when we see you and each other face to face. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(Excerpt from LWMS Notes September Edition)

Serving Christ Together,
Peggi Carrier,
LWMS Reporter for Open Bible

Pastor Schulz will hold Worship services at Steeplechase from 11:30 – 12:00 every Sunday. And he will be at Carriage House every 2nd & 4th Sunday from 10:45 – 11:15.

Carriage House: On Mondays, from 11:00 – 11:45, Randy Cochran will lead members of Carriage House in the 3rd Floor Chapel: "The Carriage House Gospel Hour!" He will have a series of Devotions and a sing-a-long.

Worship Committee Meeting: The Worship Committee decided to change the meetings to the second Thursday of the month and also changed the meeting time from 4:30 to 2:30pm. Next meeting will be held on Thursday's October 8th at **2:30 pm.**

Church Key Holders

Reminder: If anyone has a key to the church, please let the church secretary, Karen Pearson know that you have one. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 2020 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.

*May
Ur Marriage be
Blessed with love,
joy & Companionship
For all the Years of
Your Lives!!!*

Forever



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mike & Gloria Butzow - 3
Dave & Dianne Bliss - 8
Ron & Christina Moellring - 8
Les & Carol Stauske - 11
Mark & Carol Mehlberg - 15
Dennis & Pat Knack - 21



Happy Birthday!

Bette McConkey - 4
Bo Hughes - 12
Matthew Hand - 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

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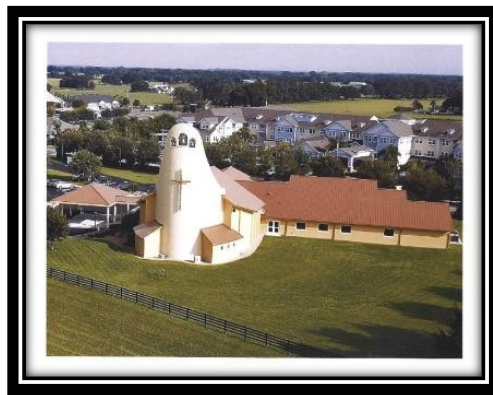
352-753-9038, 989-525-5514

Randy Cochran 407-637-4876 Staff Minister of Music & Education

“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 103.5FM
“The Shepherd.” Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am



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