



Newsletter



September 2019

Volume 14 No. 9

From the Pastor "A Christian View of Illegal Immigration"

Read 1st Peter 2:13-16 &
Romans 13:1-7

by Pastor Mark Schulz

As we listen to the news, we hear various media telling us that the United States government under our president wants to separate children from their families at the border of Mexico, and that the conditions where families are kept are concentration camps. How is a Christian to respond to these pundits that are encouraging open borders and the abolishment of ICE?

We Christians believe that we are called to be merciful and compassionate toward those people who are attempting to enter our country. In Matthew 25:35 Jesus tells us: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

But that is not the real question. The question concerns illegal immigration, whether it is wrong to violate a nation's borders and transgress its immigration laws. If you open your Bible to Romans 13 and read the first 7 verses, God expects us to obey the laws of the government. The only exception to this is when a law of government forces us to disobey a clear directive of God. See Acts 5:29. Peter and the other apostles were told by the government not to speak to anyone about Christianity. Their response was: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Illegal immigration is breaking a law of the United States government. There is nothing found in Scripture that contradicts the idea of a nation having immigration laws of who they allow in, or the number they allow in. Therefore, it is rebellion against God to unlawfully enter another country. **Illegal immigration is a sin.**

The United States is a compassionate nation. It allowed into its country 1.1 million immigrants in 2017 alone. Illegal immigration is definitely a controversial issue in the United States. Some argue that the immigration laws are unfair, unjust, and even discriminatory—thus giving individuals justification to immigrate illegally.

However, when you read Romans 13, it does not give us permission to violate a law just because it is perceived as unjust. Again, that is not the issue. The only biblical reason to violate a government's law is if that law violates God's Word. When Paul wrote the book of Romans, he was under the government of Nero. Ask any historian, and they will tell you that Nero had many laws that were unfair, unjust, and/or blatantly evil. Still, Paul instructed Christians to submit to the government.

You may feel that the present immigration laws of the United States are unfair or unjust. But again, that is not the issue. Most countries in the world have immigration laws. They too have to deal with illegal immigration. There is nothing in the Bible to prohibit a country from having completely open borders or to have completely closed borders. In fact, Jerusalem at one point

President's Message

had a wall around it. They built their wall to protect them from people who desired to harm them. Walls do indeed provide some protection and allow a border to be more easily monitored. In Romans 13:1-7, the government is given the power of the sword to punish the lawbreaker. Whether the punishment is imprisonment, deportation, or even something more severe, it is within the rights of the government to determine.

You may feel that that most of the illegal immigrants who come into the United States are not drug dealers, terrorists, or felons. They are simply people who want a better life. That may be true. However, it is not Biblical to break a law to achieve something good. I don't hold up a bank at gunpoint and receive money, so I can distribute it to the homeless in the Ocala Forest in Florida. The fact that the Bible tells us to care for the unfortunate does not mean we break a law in doing so. Supporting, and encouraging illegal immigration is going against the Word of God. Those who want to come to our country should always obey the immigration laws of our country.

What is the solution to illegal immigration? Obey the Laws. Don't enter our country illegally. If you don't like the present immigration laws, elect politicians that will make fairer immigration laws. Do everything legally to get the laws changed. How about praying too? If a law is truly unjust, we should seek to change that law. However, we are also to follow God's directive to submit to the governing authorities.

Are you a happy person? I think everyone wants to be happy because God's creation is so wonderful. We find a little bit of happiness in a lot of things, but lasting happiness is hard to find. For most people happiness is something just around the corner. Like a mirage in the desert, happiness seems to move away, just when we get close. Many fail in their quest to find the elusive prize because they are looking in the wrong places.

Proverbs 16:20 tells us, "Whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he". The foundation for happiness is a proper relationship with the Lord. But to fully experience that happiness, we must build on that foundation in practical ways, such as we find in this list of "Rules for Happy Living".

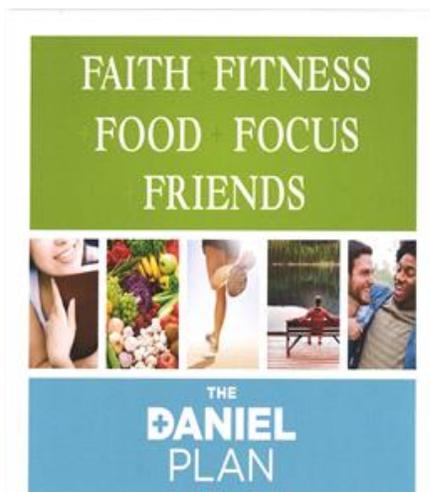
- Give something away.
- Do a kindness.
- Give thanks always.
- Look intently into the face of a baby and marvel.
- Laugh often – it's life's lubricant.
- Pray to know God's way.
- Plan as though you will live forever – you will
- Live as though today is your last day on earth.

These are excellent ideas for living a happy life. But first and foremost, we need to spend time in God's word and we are certainly fortunate to have all the opportunities that are available to us at Open Bible. But there is much more that we can do. There are countless souls who have yet to hear the gospel message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. It is very

important that all of us attempt to share God's Word.

Someday we will see true happiness when we see Jesus face to face; his arms outstretched welcoming us home to heaven. God tells us that never again will we hunger, never again will we thirst. There will be no more death or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away. No more will happiness move away just when we get close, but it will cover us like a blanket on the outside, and permeate our whole inner being. Then and then only you can and will find true happiness. You can count on it!

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf



The Daniel Plan 40 Days to a Healthier Life

Meets Tuesdays 4:00 pm 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.

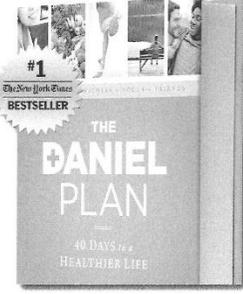
There is a sign-up sheet on the counter near the Fellowship Hall.

"The Temple of God's Spirit" 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body."

You will live forever in this body. It will be different, mind you. What is now crooked will be straightened. What is now faulty will be fixed. Your body will be different, but you won't have a different body. You will have this one. Does that change the view you have of it? I hope so.

God has a high regard for your body. You should as well. Respect it. I did not say worship it. But I did say respect it. It is, after all, the temple of God. Be careful how you feed it, use it, and maintain it. You wouldn't want anyone trashing your home; God doesn't want anyone trashing his. After all, it is his, isn't it?



**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. 10th
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

“Serving the Savior” This Month

We would like to acknowledge John



Marks for “Serving the Savior” for the month of September.

John is very dedicated in serving his Savior! He comes to Open Bible

every Friday to make sure all the Sunday bulletins are folded nice and neatly, then he makes sure the hymn boards are changed to reflect the current week hymns and Psalms. After that he will check the pews and fill them with the prayer request cards and offering envelopes. He will also change the church banner for the season.

Then he will march outside to display the “Come Worship with Us” feather banner out by the street.

John also helps the church secretary, Karen Pearson if there are any little projects to do, like stuffing the golf tees and cards in little plastic bags for the golfers to share with unchurched golfers. Also, he will set up the coffee so it’s ready to go for Sunday mornings. John is a valuable asset to our Open Bible Church family. Thanks John!

Small Group Ministry

466A Group Bible Study

Led by Pastor Rodger Dale

This is a group especially for those who live south of 466A. It is held in homes of participants the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2:00 pm.

The first meeting will be at the home of Jim and Sandy Fehlhaber on September 24th.

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 begin on Monday, Sept.9, at Judy Hainen’s, 3171 Gooding Place. We will continue with our study in the book of Romans. The wonderful Chapter 8 will resume our studies. 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.

Handbells

Facilitator: Pam Johnson. See below

Choir: Music Director is Judy Hainen.
See below



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, beginning Sept. 18th. Handbell Choir practices at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings, beginning Sept. 8th. 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 September 20th.
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 will begin the fall season with a BIG Kick-off salad lunch (all provided) and be followed with the first meeting. Date: Wednesday, September 11th at Noon!
WinGS will meet on the second Wednesday of every month.
The fall circuit rally will be Saturday, October 12th at Our Savior in Port Orange, Florida the guest speakers are Rev. Jeffrey & Stephanie Heitsch from One Africa Team. There will be a sign-



up sheet so we can car-pool. All the monies collected from the mite boxes will be sent into our circuit for the missions. Thank you all that donated.

SPLASH: Single People Loving and Serving Him

Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale
SPLASH is an organization for singles. We have a Bible Study and brief meeting the second Monday each month. We will be studying favorite Psalms beginning with Psalm 1 on September 9th 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. Beginning Saturday, September 7th. 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.

First session—September 7, 8:30 am at church. 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
Begins again Sunday, September 8th 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

Begins Tuesday, September 10th at 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), phone: 352-208-1271, or place a note in our box at church. Deadline is August 31,2019 so I can order our books.

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!

Men of Leisure:

Led by:Dennis Duessler



First meeting will be Friday, Sept. 13th 8:30 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:

Pastor Rodger Dale is the facilitator of this group. This is a support group for individuals dealing with being the care-givers of their spouses. Alzheimer's, dementia, handicapped, etc. need a support group for sharing. Meets Thursday, September 5th at 2:00pm.

Early Bird Bible Study: Led by Pastor Mark Schulz Begins Sunday, September 8th.



Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks----The book of Psalms is one of the most well-known and cherished books in all of Scripture. It was the hymnal of Old Testament Israel. Its cadences sweeten our New Testament worship services. It is the pastor's

companion as he visits the hospital and offers comfort to the sick and the dying. Its poetry has gladdened the hearts of God's people throughout the ages.

Join us as we take a deeper look into nine popular psalms on Sundays 8:00 – 9:00 am

Altar Guild: Leader: Mary Burel
Small group of ladies responsible for maintaining the Altar each week. Preparing the communion bread and wine, arrangement of Altar flowers, etc.

Grief Share: 13 week video-based small group to help those who have lost a loved one in death. Meets when the need arises.



Mornings with Mommy: We will be starting our Mornings with Mommy group for children 1 – 5 years old. This will be on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. There is registration on our website, and you can go to our Facebook page and check it out too! This is a chance for Moms and Dads & grandparents to come and have fun with their children, learn about God and meet other parents. There is storytelling, singing, crafts, and different centers for growth. The group meets from 9:30a.m.- 11a.m. Please tell any families that you know that this is available and is free of charge! Register online today at: www.openbiblelutheran church.com

(right side of home page) or Call 352-753-9038. The first group is Tuesday, September 17th, 2019 9:30 – 11:00 am. Any questions contact Jane Valley.

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 2019 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

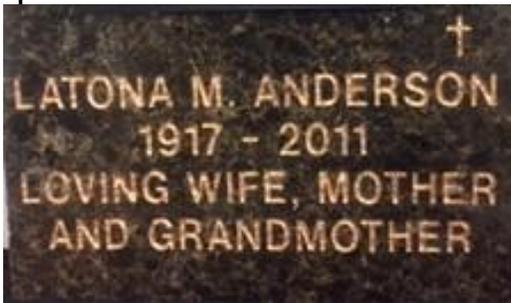
Open Bible can add an emergency contact person's information to your file. Please indicate the person's Name, Relationship to you, their phone number and the state/country that they live in.

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.



Memory Garden Progress:

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.



Happy Anniversary

- Jim & Carolyn Duncan - 4
- Pastor Rodger & Connie Dale - 9
- Rick & Carmen Smith - 10
- Ronald & Lois Klatt - 11
- James & Sandra Fehlhaber - 14
- John & Doris Adams - 16
- Ken & Jeanne Nelson - 23
- Russ & Monine Follett - 28



Happy Birthday

- Bill Whitford --- 3
- Del Draeger - 4
- Keith Mackey - 5
- Bob O'Connell - 9
- Sharon Tess - 12
- Mike Benrud - 14
- Dan Pearson - 14
- Linda Villemure - 17
- Dennis Knack - 20
- Audrey Hoerchner - 21
- Pat Krahn - 22
- Connie Dale - 23
- Diane Olsen - 24
- Jeanne Nelson - 28
- Mike Holmes - 29

***Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pastor Rodger Dale: 352-901-1162***

“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 103.5 "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.

