



Newsletter



September 2020

Volume 15 No. 9

From the Pastor

by Pastor Mark Schulz

"Waiting for Deliverance"

We have been trapped in our homes for months now. Some members of Open Bible only make it to the grocery store, the doctor, or the gas station. Maybe, you have thought, "Is this Covid pandemic ever going to end?" Think of Noah and his family. They had to endure 40 days and nights of a torrential downpour. Then followed month after month of waiting within the ark while the waters still covered the earth. Noah couldn't even go to the doctor, the gas station, or the grocery store.

As the days gave way to weeks, and the weeks to months, the hardest trial of all must have been to keep their patience. They must have often asked, "Has God forgotten us? Is there no end to the flood? Shall we never leave this ark?"

Scripture says, "And God remembered Noah." Did he ever forget him? Of course not. Could he ever forget him? Of course not. The only thing that God can and does forget regarding his people is their sin. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:34) But his people he cannot forget. "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" (Isaiah 49:15)

"God remembered Noah" means that God, mindful of his promise, mercifully delivered Noah at the right time and in the right way. God so ordered things. The waters went down. The day finally came when Noah and his family could step out on dry ground once more.

Waiting for deliverance is often hard for a Christian. When the days and nights are long, it is easy for the Christian to think that God has forgotten. We should learn from Noah to send such thoughts right back where they come from, namely, the devil who tempts us to sin.

"God remembered Noah." And he also remembers us in his goodness and mercy. Therefore he must and will deliver us, though for the moment he may appear to have hidden his face from us.

President's Message

This month I thought I would lighten the message as we certainly have had enough doom and gloom in our world to last us for a long time. When I came across the following piece entitled "Now that I am older", I thought of how many of these ideas apply to me and maybe to some of you as well. I hope you enjoy the humor as it was intended to be enjoyed.

- 1) My goal for 2020 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go.

- 2) Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons and tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce, and cheese. FINE, it was a pizza... OK, I ate a pizza!
- 3) I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.
- 4) I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours and 20 minutes.
- 5) A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.
- 6) Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.
- 7) Senility has been a smooth transition for me.
- 8) I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this.
- 9) I love being older, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.
- 10) I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.

After months of semi - confinement we have all probably done some foolish and somewhat crazy things. Thankfully God has great patience with us and love for us. It doesn't make a difference how young or old we are. God encourages us with his grace - filled love to face whatever challenges life brings our way. We can however take solace in knowing that we are drawing closer to the time we will see our Savior face to face.

He loves us unconditionally. The older we are the clearer that picture should become to us.

I hope each one of you found something that may have brought a smile to your face and a little warmth to your heart.

All God's Blessings,
Greg Wendorf

Music & Education Report By Randy Cochran

WORSHIP

Here are three tenets I think about when planning worship services...

"It's all about Jesus"

"When it comes to worship, it's not what I need, it's what do others need."

"OLD is not always good, and NEW is not always bad."

I especially want to thank Stacy Vance and Karen Pearson for going "over and above" in assisting with worship these past months.

HANDBELLS

Lord willing, handbells will make their debut September 27. Thank you, Pam Johnson, for continuing on as director this coming year.

CHOIR

The council has instructed me **NOT** to organize a traditional choir at this time due to COVID. We will continue to use

small groups to assist in worship.

ASSISTED LIVING VISITS

Judy Anderson is going to talk to the new activities director at Carriage House to see if I can get into the facility to conduct some music time and play the grand piano during lunch. It's difficult to get into the assisted living buildings due to COVID restrictions.

466A BIBLE STUDY GROUP

I met with Jim and Sandy Fehlhaber and have tentative plans to meet at church, once a month, possibly beginning September 22, Tuesday, at 1 PM. We are waiting to see if COVID will be calming down before a final decision is made. Our Bible Study: World Religions.

SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him)

Our kickoff event will be September 14, Monday, 1 PM in the fellowship hall area. A special invitation was sent out encouraging all those interested to attend. Activities we are considering: dog show, Singing River Tours, movie, wine/beer tasting, rodeo, dinner, Christmas house tour, and others!

CAREGIVERS

Our first event (depending on the COVID situation), will be held October 1, Thursday, 2 PM in the fellowship hall. It will be a one hour workshop led by Mel Parker, former Open Bible member and retired insurance administrator. He will review the steps one needs to take before and when a loved one dies. Each attendee will go home with a packet detailing everything covered in the workshop. Attendance will be limited to 25-30 people. If future workshops are needed, more will be held. THIS

WORKSHOP IS ABSOLUTELY FREE!
Sign-up will be on the counter near the Fellowship Hall.

Serving Him,
Randy Cochran
Music and Education



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

The Church Council met on August 6th, 2020.

Items discussed included:

1. We are in need of volunteers to Usher.
2. The Fifth Sunday of the month will be Special Worship Sunday followed by a Social with the serving of food.
3. Approval was given to soundproof the Pastor's Office utilizing money from the Memorial fund.
4. A proposal was accepted from MABE, a faith-based audio/visual production and installation company to update the sound system in the Church. The Memorial Fund will cover this expenditure
5. Live Streaming of Church Services will resume on August 9th.

6. Choir will be suspended until further notice.

*Yours in Christ:
Les Stauske
Secretary*

Appointed Members



Open Bible has approved the Appointment of 3 members. Pictured above (left to right) is Bill Sigurdson, Ted Hahm, Gerry Hughes.

The Church Council has appointed a Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and from time to time appoint an individual to form a committee.

These gentlemen have been appointed to very important roles in the church.

Bill Sigurdson is the Financial Secretary. He is responsible for making sure your donations are credited to your account and in the proper funds account and sends out a report to each member of the congregation a year-end report of their offerings. He also orders the envelopes every year for all. He is also our Thrivent contact person. Bill previously served on the Council. He is present each year while the annual audit is performed, and is currently one of the offering "counters."

Ted Hahm has been appointed to the Church Treasurer position for the year. The Treasurer shall be an officer of the congregation. Ted is responsible to make disbursements, monthly reports, financial reports to the council and to the Voters' Assembly and submit records annually for an audit. He will have authority to sign legal documents if the Council Secretary is absent.

Gerry Hughes has been appointed to be the Evangelism representative. He will work with the Pastor to spread the Gospel to all.

All appointed positions shall be presented at the next scheduled Voters Assembly for congregational ratification.

Small Group Ministry

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**

September 9th: The Government tells you what to eat

September 16th: The Government tells you what to worship

September 23rd: The Government is drunk with its power over you

September 30th: The Government is Under the Control of God & Used for his Purpose

466A Group Bible Study

Led by Randy Cochran

This is a group especially for those who live around the area of 466A. There are tentative plans to meet at church, once a month, possibly beginning September 22, Tuesday, at 1 PM. We are waiting to see if COVID will be calming down before a final decision is made. Our Bible Study: 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 beginning



September 18th from 9:00 am until noon.

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 first fall meeting on Wednesday, September 9th 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. Our kickoff event will be September 14, Monday, 1 PM in the fellowship hall area. A special invitation was sent out encouraging all those interested to attend. Activities we are considering: dog show, Singing River Tours, movie, wine/beer tasting, rodeo, dinner, Christmas house tour, and others!



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, September 11th.

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!

Fantastic Friday Game Day!

Will be back in the fall! For fellowship and fun playing sheepshead, uchre, hand & foot, rumicube or bring a game to share and friends to play with. Facilitators: *Carol Yahn, Sandy Pawlowski.*

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.

Our first event (depending on the COVID situation), will be held October 1, Thursday, 2 PM in the fellowship

hall. It will be a one-hour workshop led by Mel Parker, former Open Bible member and retired insurance administrator. He will review the steps one needs to take before and when a loved one dies. Each attendee will go home with a packet detailing everything covered in the workshop. Attendance will be limited to 25-30 people. If future workshops are needed, more will be held. **THIS WORKSHOP IS ABSOLUTELY FREE!** A sign-up sheet is located on the counter near the Fellowship Hall, or call the church office secretary, Karen Pearson to sign you up!

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.

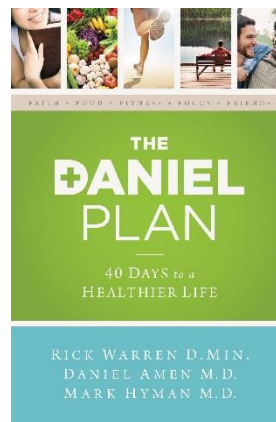
Mornings with Mommy



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, September 15th 9:30 – 11:00am. Please contact Jane Valley if you have a child (up to age 5) that would like to attend.

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

September 14th: Guidelines of Group, Overview of Program, Distribution of Student Study Guides

September 21st: Faith: Nurturing Your Soul

September 28th: Food: Enjoying God's Abundance

LWMS News

At the North Florida Circuit of LWMS board meeting on Aug 8 it was decided to alter the 2020 Fall Rally location. Concerns from the ladies at St. Paul's who were to host revolved around problems maintaining social distancing for the meals and meetings. After some discussion about ways to manage a face to face rally but in smaller numbers the following plan was put forward.

The Circuit will be divided in the 4 districts with Tallahassee as a standalone due to the distance they would need to travel. The reporters and circuit board officers will meet within each subgroup to decide the location for their site and other related items. All rallies will occur on October 10. The rallies will be a hybrid of video and face to face and will have a member of the board chair the meeting. The meetings will probably adjourn by 12:30. We are currently in a sub group with Abiding Hope, St Mark's and two churches. Watch later Sunday bulletins for more information.

MISSION BOX collections are sent to the North Florida Circuit of LWMS two times a year, just prior to each rally. Even though the 2020 Spring Rally and

the 2020 Convention were canceled our commitment to support specific missions this year continues. Please turn in any Mission Box offerings by September 6th so our donation can be forwarded to the North Florida Circuit treasurer. Those wishing to contribute by check please make it payable to Open Bible. In memo area note "LWMS Mission Box offering." There will be a box labeled for the Mission boxes near the offering box on Aug 30 and Sept. 6.

Several years ago, the International LWMS offered a challenge to all of the circuits. It was to send at least 1 sister from every circuit to the international convention. It is up to each circuit to decide how the funds will be raised but it should not come from our working or missions' budget. The North Florida Circuit accepted the challenge and choose to establish a Send One Sister (S-O-S) Silent Auction. The funds raised would be used to pay the registration cost for one sister who has never attended an LWMS Convention. Each member church provides one or more items to be used in a Silent Auction the day of the rally. People attending the rally write their bid on the sheet in front of the item along with their name. At the end of the day the highest bidder pays the treasurer and takes home their basket or item.

Since we will not be gathering all together this fall for our rally it was suggested that each church in our circuit could have a mini silent auction of the items they would have donated held at their home church. Anyone in the congregation could bid on the items and the reporter could forward the money raised to the circuit treasurer along with the Mission Box donation. Our WINGS

group gathered several items to bring to the silent auction. We will set up a display of the items with bid sheets in the Fellowship Room for September 6 and 13th. People who are at church those Sundays and during the week for activities can bid on the items. The winning bidders can make their payment after church on Sept. 13 and take home their item.

Thank you to the women who support the Mission Box offering. Your coins gathered twice a year all go directly to the missions selected. The operational costs for LWMS come from our dues which are paid by January 1st. All mission support comes from offerings collected at Rallies, the Convention and the mission funds collected in local member church ladies' groups. Working together we can serve Christ and further the Great Commission.

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

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.



Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

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

Del Draeger - 4
Keith Mackey - 5
Annette Rystrom - 6
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

Pastor Mark M. Schulz

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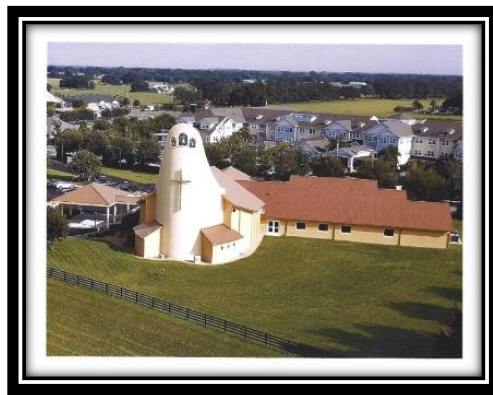
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Randy Cochran 407-637-4876 Staff Minister of Music & Education

“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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