



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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Jacksonville, FL 32226
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June 2018

We spread the gospel through love, acceptance,
and giving of ourselves for Jesus.



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<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



It's about the presence of Jesus... in you.

This month's "illustration of the month" is a communion chalice. Remember? Last time it was an antique car. It's a pretty good bet that Jesus didn't have a brushed silver chalice with gold lining at the last supper. Ceramic, maybe? An ordinary cup from someone's kitchen? Possibly.

Revisiting my first years in the ordained ministry, I seem to remember that when the pastor placed the chalice back on the altar after raising it for the Words of Institution and then when the meal concluded, it was important to position it with the cross facing the people. There were white linens to go over the cup as well, and they were to be placed so that the cross faced the people. This was our witness to the community. We are people of the cross. Does this sound kind of tame? I thought so. But bear with me on this.

You may have noticed that in most parishes, concern about these things has disappeared. Gone. Finito. Obsolete. But the point of this article is that we haven't stopped witnessing that we are people of the cross. Far from it. The way we do it has gotten a bit more basic.

I don't think I would get any arguments if I said that instead of pastor positioning the chalice correctly for worshippers to see the cross, we now understand that the Holy Spirit positions God's people in the world, refreshed, renewed, and filled with the real presence of Jesus in the bread and wine.

I tested this theory. I went back through each of the parishes I've served and tried to remember just one person in each place who, leaving the communion rail and the holy meal there, was then positioned in the world to show Jesus and cross-like living. I was able to do this easily.

One was an elderly lady, frail and still outspoken, who was the presence of the church all over town. She would walk up to stranger or friend, in church or the local restaurant or anywhere, and give them a gardenia from the plant in her yard. She went forth armed with a fresh supply each day and depended on surprise to give her elegant gift. If we'd had time to plan, we would have told her to find some other deserving recipient. But she surprised us with these fresh flowers as if they were God's grace, a sudden intrusion, delightful, unearned, joyfully given. She positioned herself to be the cross in her own eccentric way. It was wonderful.

Each of you have a gift to give. You know what it is. When we put the chalice back on the altar after communion, God positions you somewhere in the world to show Jesus. Share the gift; show the cross.

Pastor Dow

Leadership Team President's Corner

Leadership Team Member: Al Speicher - speial@comcast.net or
(904-707-6702)

Hello everyone. I apologize for not being able to attend our Combined Service and Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 5/20. My hip surgery recovery is going very well but, it will take a few more weeks until my bones are strong enough for more activity. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

As Edith discussed at the Congregational Meeting, our church is expanding! Growing is a very good thing and requires everyone to participate for continued success. We do not want to over extend those who have given us the 'BOOST' to get our church on this growing path. Please HELP to keep it going!

Our Church Expansion Goals include;

1. Add about 4,000 sq. ft. with "multiple purpose" building(s).
2. Do not add a significant debt burden to our church.
3. Prepare documents for requesting various 'Grants' to help pay for expansion.
4. Prepare fund raising requests from Businesses.
5. Prepare fund raising requests from Congregation.

A few points for your consideration on our church growth;

1. The minimum space to just help us where we are now being about 2,500 sq. ft.
2. To accommodate any additional growth, we estimate the need at 4,000 sq. ft.
3. The cost to begin the second phase of the church plan as originally designed would exceed \$500,000 +. We cannot afford to go here at this time.
4. The cost to have a metal building on a slab with HVAC, Electric, Plumbing, etc. in the 4,000 sq. ft. range is about \$150,000 +.
5. The cost to have a series of **used** portable buildings (one large **or** a couple tied together); we are looking at about \$50,000. This depends on what is available for purchase at the time we are ready to purchase.
6. **We do not** have a specific site identified at this time. The City and Civil Engineers will provide us options.

Some of the identified building uses are (no particular order):

1. United Health Care Northside outlet / health screening, etc. (perhaps an income source if we rent space)
2. Food Pantry expansion.
3. Church storage of tables, chairs etc.
4. Church Meeting Room
5. Church Class Rooms
6. Church Resource (Library) Room.
7. Additional Lease available space

We are considering upgrading the outdated church "Road Sign" to an electronic sign. The preliminary estimates exceed \$40,000. We are presently searching for funding source(s) for this special project. Any ideas? Please send you ideas to me at, speial@comcast.net. ***Jump on-board and hang on!***

God Bless
Al Speicher

Call Committee

The call committee is in the process of completing the ministry site profile. We do not have much left to complete and should be finished very soon. We thank everyone for their patience and also their prayers.

Call Committee

Betty Jones
 Brenda Higginbitham
 Casey Carlson
 Dawn Martin
 Gary Strynick
 Kelli Hood

Property Team

Leadership Team Member: Debby Speicher - yayasis@comcast.net

Our playground needs some sprucing up. If you can help with this task, please contact Debbie Speicher (Property Team) in person, text or call (904) 318-0964.

Financial Corner

Leadership Team Member: Brian Vance - bavance54@gmail.com

Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
5/6	35	26	8
5/13	29	30	6
5/20 (combined at 10am)		40	6
5/27	27	17	4

FINANCIAL CORNER ----- MAY 2018

Envelope Offering	\$ 8671.28		
CFCU xfer for Youth Gathering	\$ 3672.00		
CFCU xfer for Property	\$ 3496.85		
VBS Donation	\$ 215.00		
Church Bldg. Usage	\$ 200.00		
May interest income			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 16,151.13	EXPENSES	\$ 20,278.97
Food Pantry Donation/Fundraiser (\$941)	\$ 151.60		
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 99.06		
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 5828.07		

Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Fellowship

We continue to move forward with projects and ideas to bring our congregation together as a family. Carnations were given to all Mother's on their special day. We are planning a pancake breakfast for Father's Day. Anyone willing to help please let me know.

The youth are having a Bingo night on June 9th at 7:00. If you are able please support our youth as they are the future of our church.

A movie night is still in the planning stages. We are also still looking into a food truck event during the pumpkin patch time.

If anyone has any other ideas let me know. Thank you for all your support.

Yours in Christ,
JoAnn Strysick

Outreach

First of the month was slow for us. On Tuesday we served 72 families and on Wednesday we served 61 families for a total of 133. We received our shipment on Wednesday for the next two weeks and will have cereal, pears, green beans, spaghetti sauce, rice and beans to give from USDA. Today Gary and Joann were able to get bread, salad mix and cauliflower to add to this. Hope to see you this week. We are thankful to God for allowing us to show his love.

We had a modest amount of families served May 8th and 9th. Tuesday, we served 70 families and Wednesday we served 61 families. We are truly blessed to be able to be here week in and week out to do God's work. Hope all the Mothers have a Happy Mother's Day.

We are providing God's service to over 130 families consistently for May 15th and 16th. This week we had 72 families on Tuesday and 65 on Wednesday for 137. We were the recipients of 4 pallets of food that needed to be sorted and stored. What a great gift! Thank you to Gary and Joann Strysick, Anita and Brian Vance and Steve Carlson who helped me get it all done in two days. It sure will help us continue to provide a little extra to our families in the weeks to come. We will receive our regular shipment of USDA food on Monday, May 21. See you at the Food Pantry Tuesday or Wednesday 10 to noon. Thank you for helping or just keeping us in your prayers.

For May 22nd and 23rd, our numbers are back up; 87 on Tuesday and 67 on Wednesday for a total of 154. We were able to offer an opportunity to shop for items not generally available. We were also blessed to have Ruth's Circle ladies with us to give out personal care items to our clients. This is a way that Circle chose to broaden their ministry to those in need. We are continuing in the way God has prepared for us.

edith
emb1002@aol.com

2018 Youth Gathering

Casey Carlson



The Gathering is holding a *Blast Off for Books* campaign, in which we can help ensure bright futures for Houston’s students. We are collecting books that will be donated and distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city as part of the Gathering’s Service Learning experience. By putting books in the hands of Houston’s economically disadvantaged students, you can help change lives.

Our partners at the Houston Independent School District have identified specific books for Gathering participants to bring to Houston: A complete list of these books requested and a box for their collection are located in the narthex. Please make sure to check it out! Please only bring the books that are on the book list. All books must be new or gently used. Thank you!

You may also find a PDF copy of the requested books at:

[Blast Off for Books Flyer](#)

BINGO GAME NIGHT!

Saturday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m.
At Spirit of Life Lutheran Church



Please join us for a fun night of games and door prizes, while supporting our youth attending the Gathering this summer. Cost is 3 games for \$10. We’ll also be holding a 50/50 raffle and giving away many door prizes. Mark your calendars now for a great night of family friendly fun!

Education / Youth

Leadership Team Member: Anita Vance – anitalvance@gmail.com 814-932-0203



Volunteers Needed for VBS!

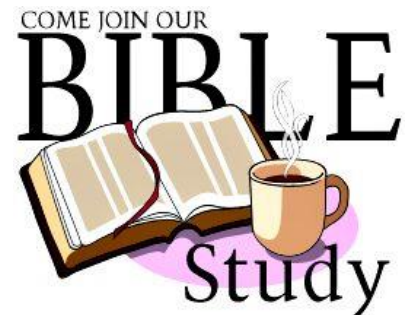
We are excited to see the VBS (Vacation Bible School) coming in just a few weeks! To help this be successful for our youngest members, we need your help! People to meet, greet and help with nametags, group leaders to escort children to education stations, craft assistants to direct and design, kitchen assistants to help with prep and general runners are still needed. We have big plans each day of the week, including a Field Trip to a Synagogue to experience Hebrew/Jewish Heritage of Jesus Christ. Registration forms and additional information can be requested at vbs2018.sol@gmail.com

Bible Study

Gary Stryck - jstryck@yahoo.com

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20)*

Bible classes will still be on Wednesday mornings at 10 am.
We shall try to follow Christ's journey to the cross during the Lenten season.



Emergency Food Pantry

Steve Carlson - steveandcasey@yahoo.com (904)654-6462

Matthew 25:35. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me"

Ruth Circle

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin—(904)518-6903

Pig in the Pen fundraiser – a big thank you to all who helped put 19 pigs in the pen. A total of \$576.29 was collected for the “Good Gifts” Project.

Our “Love Table” will have personal care items. The food pantry clients really appreciate these articles.

The “Mad Hatters Tea Party” was held May 12th. The guests wore beautiful hats. There were five children and one brand new baby in attendance. Thirty-one guests received a small tea cup planted with a succulent. Four gentlemen were our servers. A skit and story were part of the program. Much conversation and laughter prevailed. The tea, sandwiches, cookies, strawberries, pickles, olives were enjoyed by all. Everyone enjoyed the day.

Call To Care (Prayer List)

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. James 5:13

Our Members are highlighted

Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: Missy Dow, Ellen & George Cross, Iliana, Hannah Stayer (Vonda Miller niece)

Our Military members: Jeff & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Carol Ann Bartholomew (Vicki Haugen sister), Amanda Bennett (Betty Mallard daughter), Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), **Elaine Ditlovson** (Brenda Higginbotham mother, Lauren MIL), Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle father, Bob’s F-I-L), Linda Hill, Kevin Hubbard, Alan, Larry and Terri Joiner, **Barbara Kirkwood, Kelly Matthews**, Tracey McGammon, Mildred Moody, Michael Peeler, Paul Ruen, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Sally Scheppner, and Edna Smith (Bob Hoyle mother, Michele MIL)

BIRTHDAY LIST

- 2 Chris Hicken
- 9 Russell Aldred
- 9 Makenna Wenk
- 12 Paul Doolittle
- 12 Bridget Haugen
- 12 Jody Minar
- 13 Gary Strysick
- 15 Stephanie Kinter
- 15 Kimberly Kinter
- 16 Kristen Watson
- 19 Nathan McGammon
- 20 Suzanne Forrest
- 21 Travis McLarty
- 25 Dan Fisher

ANNIVERSARY LIST

- 22 Billie & Kelly Hood
- 26 David & Kelly Kirk

Happy Anniversary

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Synod Assembly 10:00 AM Ruth Circle	2
3 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	4	5 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	6 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	7 6:00 PM Call Committee 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	8	9 6:30 PM Bingo Night Fundraiser
10 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	11	12 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	13 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	14 6:00 PM Call Committee 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	15	16
17 Father's Day 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	18 Vacation Bible School	19 Vacation Bible School 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	20 Vacation Bible School 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	21 Vacation Bible School 6:00 PM Call Committee 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	22 Vacation Bible School	23
24 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	25	26 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	27 ELCA Youth Gathering 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	28 ELCA Youth Gathering 6:00 PM Call Committee 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	29 ELCA Youth Gathering	30 ELCA Youth Gathering

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Community, Faith and Service

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Lutheran Church**

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Community, Faith and Service



www.SpiritofLifeJacksonville.org

**This is Christ's Church.
There is a place for you here.
We are the church that shares a
living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace
you as a whole person—
questions, complexities and all.
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's
name for the life of the World!**