



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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July 2018

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



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<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



"The Call"

What words are right when you talk about getting a new pastor?

Maybe we ought to say, "We will hire a new pastor." Sometimes people say, "We are calling a new pastor." I don't get it.

What's the difference?

The illustration (old telephone landline from about 1920 or so) represents this question as we handled it in seminary. One day in class, our professor was talking about how we were called to ministry (not just picking out a job). Yours truly drew a phone like this one on a piece of paper with these words and passed it around class while the prof was talking. It came back right before the end of class with some pretty funny inscriptions, which I won't share here.

We were uncomfortable thinking we were "called" to be pastors (by God, no less!) instead of just training for another job. You may be uncomfortable with this language now. It's God talk, not "world" talk.

So, what difference could it possibly make... to pastors? For one thing, after we as young pastors actually started serving churches,

it was very good to know that we had God's backing for what we were being asked to do, instead of just "having a job." God chose us. There's a long history of this with God and his people. King David, scrawny and scrappy as he was, was called to be king of Israel by God. Jesus was called in his baptism, too. We are working within God's design. God has his eye on us and won't let us down. God has chosen us for what we are doing for a good reason and will help us see it through.

Well then, what difference could it possibly make... to church members? Pastors understand, like Martin Luther did, that everyone has a holy calling to good, honest work that benefits self, family, and builds up community. Life is more than just getting what you can and leaving others in the dust. We help each other through the things we do well, that is, our means of making a living. You can build a church on this. You can build a community on it. You can build a nation or a world on it. It's calling to ministry via your good, honest work. Your work. Your calling.

And so finally, what difference can it make to a church calling a pastor? Here's a hint. Churches that try to "hire" pastors usually have pretty unreasonable expectations, such as, "our new pastor will solve all our problems. After all, that's what we're paying him/her for." Wrong.

The pastor is called by God to a ministry of word and sacraments, making sure day by day that the community of faith understands that the path through life is paved with grace and we can live that way, full of faith and hope and love.

This newly called pastor of yours will also be about the business of helping you and others fit your gifts and talents into a powerful, serving, whole. St. Paul says that when this happens, we are like a body, the body of Christ, acting out his saving, healing love in the world. Hired hands can't do this. Called pastors and called members together with God, can do it every time.

The phone you see above is ringing. The call is for your new pastor. And, the call is for you to work together to support the new ministry you will share.

Pastor Dow

Leadership Team President's Corner

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

Our Church continues grow as we move closer to calling a pastor. The Call Committee has completed the Ministry Site Profile and is assembling questions for the pastoral interview process. Copies of the Ministry Site Profile will be placed in the narthex.

Thank you, Anita Vance, and your VBS support team for another successful VBS Program. The children made crafts to purchase as a fund raiser. They are on display in the narthex.

Edith will be handing out a Church Use Survey on Sunday July 1st and July 9th. Please take a few minutes to complete before you leave the church. This is a very important survey and will be used by the Leadership Team to determine how the congregation feels about our proposed next steps for the church.

The Leadership Team is aware of the Playground conditions and will be performing a safety inspection on the equipment. We have chosen not to make any improvements the playground until we have building site information, should be proceed with acquiring portable buildings.

Our church is actively recruiting for a Nursery Attendant. If you have anyone that may be interested, please have them send their resumes to the church office.

We have begun our fall event planning. Keep your eyes on our calendar for the Clothes Give-A-Way, Pumpkin Patch, Fall Festival. We need volunteers to step up for both leadership and support activities. Please do not let these events and others in planning, fall on just a few people.

Comments and questions please send to me at, speial@comcast.net.

Jump on-board and Hang on!

God Bless
Al Speicher

Call Committee

The mission site profile has been revised and sent to the synod and has been accepted. It also has been sent to leadership team.

We also will soon have a copy of it available in the narthex for review

From here, we will now start working on our interview questions at our next meeting. We also have a meeting coming up with Pastor Hamilton to know how to conduct our interview. Any questions can be directed to call committee members.

Call Committee

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

Financial Corner

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

Attendance

| | 9 am | 10:30 am | Nursery/Sunday School |
|------|------|----------|-----------------------|
| 6/3 | 37 | 21 | 8 |
| 6/10 | 37 | 21 | 4 |
| 6/17 | 30 | 30 | 7 |
| 6/24 | 45 | 25 | 7 |

| FINANCIAL CORNER ----- June 2018 | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Envelope Offering | \$ 10,343.01 | | |
| CFCU xfer for Youth Gathering | \$ 3412.74 | YG Total | |
| | | Cost | 8863.63 |
| VBS Donation | \$ 340.00 | | |
| Church Bldg. Usage | \$ 400.00 | | |
| June interest income | | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 14495.75 | EXPENSES | \$ 15230.46 |
| Food Pantry Donation | \$ 144.60 | | |
| Food Pantry Expense | \$ 148.12 | | |
| Food Pantry Balance | \$ 5830.25 | | |

Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Fellowship

We held a pancake breakfast for Father's Day and it was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who helped or participated. We are planning a movie night in either July or August.

The food truck event has been put on hold for the time being but is still being considered for a later date. I have been told that members are keeping in touch with our shut-in and members in the hospital or recuperating at home.

If anyone has any suggestions or ideas for other events, please feel free to see me or any member of the fellowship team.

Yours in Christ,
JoAnn Strysick

Outreach

June 5-6

We are continuing to see some new faces each week as well as the regulars. We celebrated one client getting a new job. she starts this Tuesday. Yeah! We also have a new addition to one of our families. He is so cute. He gets to ride to the pantry but has not come inside yet. we served 147 clients for the week. Tuesday saw 85 come through and on Wednesday we had 62. We are thankful for the pallets of food we received several weeks ago. It is helping us fill up our bags. Gary and Joann Strysick were able to get us peaches and potatoes this week. That was great! Trinity Lutheran also sent us potatoes. we are starting to share with other food pantries. On Wednesday we were able to get eggs. Thanks again to Gary and Joann for picking them up for us. We were able to share with Victory Celebration. We are keeping very busy. Come join us any Tuesday or Wednesday from 10 to 12.

June 19-20

Numbers were up again 81 on Tuesday and 76 on Wednesday for a total of 157. Thank you to everyone who were helping. We had two new young people to help us this week; their mother is a client at the food pantry and ask if we could use volunteers. We never turn anyone away. I want to thank everyone who was praying for me before, during and after my cardiac procedure. I am happy to report that I am back to myself as of today. God truly has blessed us all with the gift of each other.

June 26-27

What a week. I may have to research but I think we set a record this week. We served 102 families on Tuesday and 73 on Wednesday for a total of 175. It was great to have Miss Claudia back helping us and as always the familiar faces were present. we do have fun. Our families like to see us and join in our antics. We will be waiting for our food delivery on Tuesday AM. 2 weeks ago we received food for 300 families and these two weeks we served 332. We have been blessed and can always pull something together. Thank God and to him be the Glory.

A Note of Thanks to the Congregation...



God has given me the most, beautiful gift I could ever ask for. I was able to reunite my parents by placing their ashes together in the presence of our entire family. The ceremony was held grave site and led by Steve & Winnie Carlson. The weather was as beautiful as the service. I would like to thank my church family for all the cards, phone calls, prayers and support you provided during my time of need. Also, if it wasn't for my Spirit of Life family we wouldn't have had the wonderful feast of food and desserts. I will remember the love shared by all for the rest of my life.

Claudia Moreash

Education / Youth

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

We are happy to have completed another Vacation Bible School. The 2018 Time Lab Discovery guided 19 children and 20 + adult helpers travel through time to find the Holy Trinity through Creation, Old Testament, New Testament, Present day and the Future in Heaven. They learned about promises kept, Eternal Love, Sacrifice and Hope for the Children of God. We played games about Creation, the Ten Commandments, Mansions in Heaven and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We learned about helping children around the world by making crafts to sell and collecting change to provide meals through the Children's Hunger Fund network of churches. Our favorite songs, Jesus, Alpha and Omega and The Light of the World can be found online at YouTube by searching on those titles. Everyone joined singing and signing these beautiful songs about our Lord and Savior. We even got temporary tattoos of The Lord of Lords and King of Kings on the last day.

The families participating donated \$41.55 or 166 meals by the end of the week. Art works about VBS favorites and Thank You notes to Spirit of Life for supporting this program are on display throughout the church. Some pictures can be found on the Spirit of Life Facebook page.

Sunday School is caught in the summer vacation roller coaster that is standard for this time of year. We will continue to offer lessons and crafts, or games related to the sermon, and we are still in need of additional helpers. We are in the planning stages for a schedule such that once every 6 weeks we would assign a volunteer for both services, to work with a partner or Mrs. Vance for the class of the day. Sermon subjects and craft or game ideas will be provided. If you have questions, concerns or are ready to volunteer, please contact Anita Vance, email anitalvance@gmail.com. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Bible Study

Gary Strynick - jstrynick@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.



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

The Devotion was on the Almond Tree as a symbol of hope and watchfulness of God. The Love Table will be of wipes. The next Love Table will be in September.

We are already thinking about our next Mother's Lunch. We have some solid thoughts already.

Some of our ladies are active in the Food Pantry. We help as much as we can in all the activities at church. By doing so, we are acting on the purpose of statement of the women of the ELCA. As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world. Our mission: to mobilize women to act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Event- Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization, Fall Gathering – Nov. 9-11, 2018
Lake Yale Retreat Center – Leesburg, Florida. Theme: "It's All About Love!" Check out the website at www.flwelca.com for more information, updates and registration forms.

Our next meeting will be September 7th. Have a blessed summer,
Dawn Martin

Call To Care (Prayer List)

Our Members are highlighted

Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Marty Barron, The **Barnes family** during recent death of Ronnie's mother; Linda, The **Higginbotham family** during their recent death of Brenda's mother: **Elaine Ditlovson**, The **Hoyle family** during their recent death of Bob's mother: Edna Smith, Jean Messick & Sally Scheppner (David & Bonnie Messick's moms).

Our Military members: Antrone Jones, Jeff & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Carol Ann Bartholomew (Vicki Haugen sister), Amanda Bennett (Betty Mallard daughter), Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Ellen & George Cross, Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle father, Bob's F-I-L), Iliana, Linda Hill, Kevin Hubbard, Alan, Larry and Terri Joiner, **Barbara Kirkwood**, **Kelly Matthews**, Tracey McGammon, Mildred Moody, John Murray (food pantry client), Paul Ruen, and Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great)

| <u>BIRTHDAYS</u> | | <u>ANNIVERSARY LIST</u> | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 8 | Patty Wise | 18 | Mike & Karen Beaumont |
| 11 | Vonda Miller | 27 | Terry & Vicky Haugen |
| 11 | Kayla Minar | | |
| 13 | Peggy Williams | | |
| 15 | Billie Hood | | |
| 17 | Joshua Halleland | | |
| 20 | Jen Ochoa | | |
| 29 | Kristen Wissing | | |
| | | | <i>Happy Anniversary</i> |

Synod Dates to Note

July 30-Aug 1 - Transition Ministry Training (Luther Springs)

Aug. 11 - New Facilities Dedication, Luther Springs

Sept. 27-30 - Practice Discipleship Retreat for Youth Workers (Luther Springs)

July 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service | 2 | 3 | 4 Independence Day | 5 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service | 9 | 10 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 noon | 11 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 noon 6:00 PM Call Committee | 12 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service Fellowship Team Meeting after second service | 16 | 17 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 noon | 18 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 noon 6:00 PM Call Committee | 19 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service | 23 Leadership Team Meeting 6 pm | 24 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 noon | 25 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 noon | 26 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service | 30 | 31 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 noon | | | | |



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Community, Faith and Service

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Lutheran Church**

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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!**