



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL  
2636 New Berlin Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32226  
904-757-9114  
Email: [chur5900@bellsouth.net](mailto:chur5900@bellsouth.net)

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



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Web Site:

<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



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## Susan's Drive Home: What's the Church For?

Susan was taking a college class on church history. She thought it would be a struggle, and that she would hardly be able to stay awake during class. She was delightfully surprised to find that she loved it.

One of the reasons for this was how she was being challenged by two ideas of what the church should be. The starting point was how Jesus once said that Christians should be salt and light.

Did salt and light mean that the church was supposed to concentrate on the Bible, teaching beliefs, and worship so that people could be clear about who Jesus was and their relationship with him? Or, was the church supposed to "flavor the world" with programs that help people and change the world from being selfish to being loving toward all?

Susan was confused. No wonder; it's always been a confusing issue for the church. She learned in class that when any church looks only inward toward its teachings and worship practices, it ends up trying to control what people think and how they must act to be Christian. She also learned that churches that spend most of their resources helping others sometimes forget why they were brought together in the first place and end up debating about which programs were best.

Susan thought about this one day on her drive home from class. She thought about, of all things, her junior prom in high school.

She had seen a girl in tears in her prom dress with her date at a Panera once. They had missed the point that occasions need to be special. She



was glad her church paid attention to worship as an important occasion. When you stopped caring about that, it was like a prom at Panera.

She also remembered that her dad's business club had picked up a lot of new members the year they packed 250 or so meals for the homeless. They were losing members when they only focused inward. She wanted her church to spend time and energy helping others, not just having great worship services.

Salt and light. Light and salt. Did Jesus mean his church should spend most of its time helping the world, or spend most of its time making worship, religious classes, and its own meetings as special as possible?

Driving home from class that day, Susan drove by elaborate churches that spent all their money on big buildings and advertising. She also saw small churches with people in the parking lots, waiting for food and other things that would help them. She even saw one church with a sign outside about the upcoming election, advising people to vote for change!

Light and salt. Salt and light. This was driving Susan crazy as she drove home. She felt like she was driving in circles, and that the church was going in circles, too. What should the church be?

Maybe the answer was how Jesus said, "salt AND light." Salt could be the way the church found its flavor in worship, fellowship, and learning by making Father, Son, and Holy Spirit the focus, and saying that the cross is our only hope. Light could be the way the church took what it knew about itself and "lightened" the load for others in ways that changed things right now and in the long term as well.

Salt **and** light. Susan understood in that moment that she would spend the rest of her life balancing what Jesus said. The important thing, Susan realized as she turned into her driveway, was to remember that Jesus told us we are both salt and light, not just one or the other.

Pastor Dow

## Leadership Team President's Corner

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

SOL continues to search for a qualified Nursery Attendant. We have received several inquiries and potential employee names. The Leadership Team will be setting up interviews. Please continue to keep praying for a Nursery Attendant and forwarding names to church office.

The Synod has posted the SOL Ministry Site Profile and Pastoral Resume request on the Synod Web. Our Call Committee is fully prepared to receive resumes from the Synod as they arrive. PRAY for our new pastor.

Pastor Dow received information about a portable building for sale at a Lutheran church in Niceville, Fla. I sent an email requesting further details.

The Leadership Team continues to discuss possibilities for acquiring an electronic sign for our church. The costs could exceed \$30,000. We are investigating the idea of having local businesses sponsor the sign in exchange for advertising. Like businesses sponsoring a kid's baseball team.

Pastor Dow and team have submitted our first grant request to help us get our portable building project underway. There is no defined time expectation for a response. We must be patient. Again, pray. We need to grow, and prayer followed by money can make it happen.

"Bloom where you are planted"! The orange flags near the playground represent our pilot community garden. Please see the Food Pantry Team for exciting details.

The church has several events for this fall. We really need volunteers to help the leadership make these events the best ever. Several people can make a big impact on our church events and community. Please don't miss a chance to serve your church and community.

Comments and questions please send to me at, [speial@comcast.net](mailto:speial@comcast.net).

***Jump on-board and Hang on !....***

God Bless  
Al Speicher

## Call Committee

Spirit of Life's completed, and approved Ministry Site Profile has been posted on line. The Call Committee is waiting for interested candidates to submit their profiles (resumes). In all things, keep praying that God's will may be done and his will would be made clear to us.

### Call Committee

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

## Financial Corner

Leadership Team Member: Brian Vance - [bavance54@gmail.com](mailto:bavance54@gmail.com)

### Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
8/5	28	19	1
8/12	28	28	13
8/19	35	27	7
8/26	29	25	4

### FINANCIAL CORNER ----- AUGUST 2018

Envelope Offering	\$	9,789.71		
Clothing giveaway love donation	\$	10.00		
AUGUST interest income				
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$	9,799.71	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 8,668.78</b>
<hr/>				
Food Pantry Donations	\$	50.00		
Food Pantry Expenses	\$	1,349.54		
<b>Food Pantry Balance</b>	\$	4,238.87		

## Fellowship and Outreach Teams

### **Fellowship**

We had our movie event and had about 15 people in attendance. All that attended had a good time and we are looking to do another in the future. We will be having a biscuit and gravy breakfast in the future. Date to be announced.

We will be making a meal for the students at FCCJ on Sept. 11. This is for their Christian Ministry program.

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

### **Food Pantry**

We have been very busy and have been blessed to be able to keep up with the numbers by using every means that we have. A special thanks to Joann and Gary Strysick for using their time, truck and muscle to go twice a week to Farm Share to get things that we would not have otherwise and it makes a big difference in the quality and quantity of food our clients receive.

July 17th 112 families and the 18th 38. July 24th 95 and the 25th 39. July 31st 120 (that's a record) and August 1st 53; that's a record for the week total of 173.

August 7th 103 and August 8th 56. Too bad school starts Monday. We will miss our student volunteers, they have been a big help with getting food to cars for our families. We certainly enjoyed having them and keeping us on our toes.

This month we are asking for canned meat to supplement our food pantry. Thanks for anything you do to make us successful. Prayers are always welcome. God provides for us so we can do his work.

August 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> : Good week, very busy. We sure miss our youth volunteers. We served 120 families on Tuesday and 47 on Wednesday. God truly blesses us with extras to give out and our families are happy and feel the love that God has given us to share.

August 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup>: We continue to set records! On Tuesday we served 106 families and on Wednesday 77 which is a Wednesday record and for the week 183 which is also a record. God has blessed us with the ability to continue to grow in our food and spiritual ministries. Thank you for all the support we have. God bless all of you.

August 29<sup>th</sup>: We were closed on Tuesday because the church is used as a polling precinct. We were ready on Wednesday and served 108 families; they were spread out over time and everything went very smoothly.

This week we will get our delivery, but it will be on Wednesday due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Edith

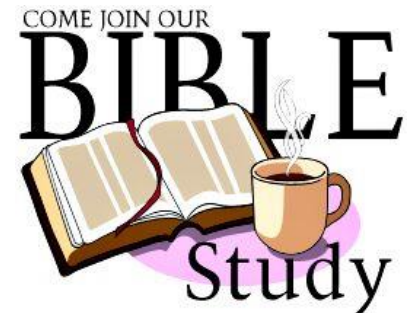
[emb1002@aol.com](mailto:emb1002@aol.com)

## Bible Study

Gary Stryck - [jstryck@yahoo.com](mailto:jstryck@yahoo.com)

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

Adult Bible class will begin September 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. We will look at the history/time line from the book of Daniel and how it relates to our faith. EVERYBODY welcome. Please join us as we delve into God's work and fellowship with other.



If you are unable to attend the morning session and are interested in an evening Bible study, please contact Gary Stryck.

## Emergency Food Pantry

Steve Carlson - [steveandcasey@yahoo.com](mailto: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"

We usually slow down a little during the heat of the summer, but 2018 continues to surprise us in many ways. Our weekly numbers continue to increase and there seems to be no end in sight.

One project that we are looking at is starting a Community Garden. We are meeting with Nathan, the Man in Overalls, who is a Urban Farmer. He is meeting us at the church to discuss the feasibility of starting such a garden here at Spirit of Life. Stay tuned for more into.

On Sept 10, we will be hosting another Hambingo Fundraiser at Hamburger Mary's. This is a great opportunity to have fun, get to know people in our network, and raise funds for the Food Pantry. Everyone is welcome.

Coming up this fall with be our annual Thanksgiving Food Giveaway, date to be determined.

Peace and Love be with You.

## Ruth Circle

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)  
Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

Ruth Circle will resume on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

## Education / Youth

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

Sunday School numbers are averaging 8 each week. We are learning to see God's goodness in others and be thankful for our blessings. We learned about the Shield of Faith and the importance of forgiveness. Our puppet friend, Buddy showed how we can become better versions of ourselves with God's help. Thank you to Miss Dee, Miss Patty, Miss Mary and Lexi for helping this month! We are so Blessed to have your support!

September will have 2 visits by the Puppet Players, September 9 and September 23 (one service, annual meeting). Come see what they have to share.

## Call To Care (Prayer List)

### **Our Members are highlighted**

#### **Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn**

Randy Barron, The **Haugen Family** during the recent death of Vicki's sister Carol Bartholomew, Pastor Ellen Cross during the recent death of George, Mary's mother: Isabel Gil, Sue Patterson, Andrienne Ramey, Mildred Taylor, Nia Travis, Leo Williams (Mary Williams son)

**Our Military members:** Antrone Jones, Jeff & Trey

**Chronic Prayers:** Randy Barron (Pat Barron's grandson), Amanda Bennett (Betty Mallard daughter), Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), 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), Sue Patterson, Paul Ruen, and Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great)

<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>		<u>ANNIVERSARY LIST</u>	
6	Griselda Halleland	14	Cliff & Kristen Wissing
12	Palmer Kirk	20	Curtis & Bridget Haugen
12	James Williams	26	Jeff & Kassandra DeLaRosa
17	Rita Hays	28	Steve & Karen Burnette
19	Karen Beaumont		
22	Grace Paradise		
24	Tracy McGammon		
25	David Williams		
30	Karen Burnette		
30	Kim McLarty		

*Happy Anniversary*

## Synod Dates to Note

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

**September 5** @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm USCA Faith Coalition Pre-Conference on AIDS

**September 7** @ 4:00 pm - September 8 @ 11:30 pm Rock the Universe, Orlando



# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00 AM <u>Contemporary Service</u> 10:30 AM <u>Traditional Service</u> 2:00 PM <u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	<b>3</b> <u>Labor Day</u>	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM <u>Food Pantry</u>	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM <u>Food Pantry</u>	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM <u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM <u>Book Circle</u>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <u>God's Work, Our Hands Sunday</u> 9:00 AM <u>Contemporary Service</u> 10:30 AM <u>Traditional Service</u> 2:00 PM <u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM <u>Food Pantry</u>	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM <u>Food Pantry</u>	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM <u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 AM <u>Contemporary Service</u> 10:30 AM <u>Traditional Service</u> 11:30 AM <u>Confirmation Class</u> 2:00 PM <u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM <u>Food Pantry</u>	<b>19</b> 9:30 AM <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 AM <u>Food Pantry</u>	<b>20</b> 6:30 PM <u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:00 AM <u>Combined SOI Church Service</u> 11:30 AM <u>Confirmation Class</u> 2:00 PM <u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM <u>Food Pantry</u>	<b>26</b> 9:30 AM <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 AM <u>Food Pantry</u>	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM <u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 AM <u>Contemporary Service</u> 10:30 AM <u>Traditional Service</u> 11:30 AM <u>Confirmation Class</u> 2:00 PM <u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>						

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*Community, Faith and Service*

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Lutheran Church**

Interim Pastor Richard W. Dow  
2636 New Berlin Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32226

Phone: 904-757-9114

Email: [church5900@bellsouth.net](mailto:church5900@bellsouth.net)

*Community, Faith and Service*



**[www.SpiritofLifeJacksonville.org](http://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!**