



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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October 2018

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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Two Trees and a Pledge Card

Talk about the Bible and you can run into trouble. My friend and I had a heated discussion about how many trees there are in Genesis, the creation story. The answer is two. Eastern religions only have one. We talked about this



for a long time. God loves trees, even when they make things complicated.

Some, like the tree of knowledge of

good and evil, God keeps for himself. The other one, the tree of life, is for us. Why is that so?

Well, talk about the Bible and trouble is what you get.

For instance, you can say that God makes the rules. One rule is to give to the church. Break it, and your church is weakened, and your sense of the good life gets a little stingy. Look at those last two sentences again. If you laid them out for your friends or family, do you think the discussion would get a little heated?

Let's stay out of trouble and still talk about the Bible.

We could put a big tree in Spirit of Life's worship space, right behind the altar. It could stand for the tree of life. We could put it next to the cross, which, because of Jesus' love and sacrifice, is where life comes from. Life is now ours. Eternal life.

So, this tree of life on the church wall could be about how we take the gift of life from God. We trust and love God, then see that God has given us different talents and monies to say "thank you" with, by sharing them.

We could have everyone who came to worship write their name on a leaf, and something they do out of love for God. Mine could be finding a way of talking about the Bible while not causing arguments. Or, walking my dog. Or taking my grandson to Cub Scouts. Something like that. Or doing something in church as well.

God has given me a wonderful life. It's new life in Jesus, where I have a kind of strength to love like him. I leave the tree of knowledge of good and evil to God. That means I listen when God says to live by sharing, and I let it stick. God knows what's good for us and lets us know that it involves our time and talents and money. When I know this, I am free to enjoy the tree of eternal life.

So then, I put my little leaf on the tree in church. When I stand back, I see many leaves, many talents shared, money shared too. The tree, once bare, now looks like God's love growing.

Handing out pledge cards, like talking about the Bible, sometimes generates conflict.

But this time, I let God say what's good and what's not. Sharing is good. Being free with my time and energy and money for God is good. God says so. I pledge what I can, and perhaps a little more this time. And – is it my imagination? – I think I see the leaves on the tree move a bit, like in a cooling breeze. Or was it just God working through me?

Pastor Dow

Congregational Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2018

Opening Prayer by Al Speicher thanked God for a place to worship and help others. He asks that God bless us and help us grow and serve each other and the community.

Al also thank Steve Carlson and Tom Gambitsky for filling in for Pastor Dow while he is away.

Call Committee Update was given by Casey Carlson. The Synod has our MSP and is looking for potential candidates. We are looking for a part time pastor and several have interest, but it may not be the right time. Casey ask that we specifically pray that God will work with us and prepare those with the right timing.

Stewardship Program has started. Tom Gambitsky and Dee Crawley are co- chairing this. Tree is up in sanctuary to be filled with leaves marked with the stewardship activities of each of us in our congregation. Leaves started to be placed on the tree at service today.

Update on Building Use Project: Survey showed an overwhelming support for the project. Pastor has assisted us in applying for 2 grants to get money to get started. We need to start planning activities and campaign for building that fund. Property is working with engineer to determine what size and where we can put a portable building. Al and Debby continue to work with their contacts to find the right building for our use at the best price.

Community Garden: raised beds have been built and will be getting the bottoms finished soon so planting can begin. Money for this project has come from United Health Care and Jason Clark from LSS. Dirt should be coming very soon.

Pumpkins are scheduled to be delivered October 10th at 4:30 PM. We need help to unload and set up in the patch.

Pumpkin Patch will be open beginning October 11. We need volunteers to sign up to work the pumpkin patch. See bulletin board in Narthex.

On a sad note Vonda and Debby have been doing the pumpkin patch since the beginning but will not be continuing. **In order for SOL to keep the pumpkin patch, we need someone to step up and learn it this year. If no one is interested, we will lose this revenue and St. Patrick's will get the patch next year.**

Fall Festival is October 20th from 11 -2. We will need help that day. If you have any items for our raffle, please bring them to church. Mary Elwood is in charge. Patty Wise is in charge of games and would like some older youth to help with them. We have plenty of prizes. Someone will reach out to Khalil Shami to see about the bouncy house.

Oceanway Elementary School has requested that we donate things for their school store that the children can use school bucks to buy. Suggestions are fun pencils, stickers, bracelets, erasers etc. They also need boy's underwear sizes 4-12 for their clinic.

Community Feast is a fund raiser for five food pantries working with Lutheran Social Services Nourishment Network to show our congregation and community leaders what types of food is given from our food pantries. Each of the food pantries will prepare two dishes from items commonly given out and give a sample to ticket holders with a vote to take place for the best. Tickets are \$15 or 4 for \$50. The event is Wednesday evening October 17th at St Mark's Lutheran Church. All proceeds will be divided equally among the five food pantries. Please support this benefit.

New Members meeting was held. There are 3 to 4 new members to join our church on Reformation Sunday, October 28,2018.

Confirmation classes started last Sunday. Currently there are 2 students. Class is open to those in 6th grade and above.

Keep the Date:

The Pumpkins are coming about October 10th.

Fall Festival is October 20, 2018

Next Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 2019. This will be a combined service with annual meeting to follow. This will be a voting meeting. If anyone is interested in serving on the leadership team, please speak with one of the team members

Call Committee

God has already decided who our next pastor will be. God has chosen life for the world and we at Spirit of Life play an important part in that role. God has chosen a leader for us, with unique gifts and abilities. Now we must pray that this person can discern God's call, so he or she can be matched to us.

Discernment for our next pastor isn't just about deciding what he or she is going to do his or her life.

Discernment is about being open, curious and attuned to what God is up to — with our next pastor and with us. And it's being confident that our next pastor has a part to play in the story of God's love for the world through us and with us.

Peace!
Casey

Financial Corner

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

Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
9/2	30	19	5
9/9	23	22	11
9/16	28	26	4
9/23 (one service-10 am)	51		
9/30 (TBD)			

FINANCIAL CORNER	Sep-18		
Envelope Offering	\$ 9,491.28		
9/30 envelope			
CF xfers	\$ 425.00	Total Expenses	\$ 11,087.32
Church bldg usage	\$ 400.00		
Election bldg usage	\$ 250.00		
Interest Income (9/30)			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,566.28		
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 50.00		
Food Pantry Fundraiser	\$ 600.00		
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 4,811.29		

Worship and Music

Leadership Team Member: Dan Nichols - nichdc@comcast.net

The summer has been busy and by now you have seen that sometimes we will be having members of the congregation and our Deacon giving portions of the worship service when the Pastor is absent on business or vacation. This will also be good practice for if we ever have this situation to contend with in the future for any reason. I personally would like to thank Tom Gambitsky and Steve and Casey Carlson for their service and dedication.

I think things are going great and have nothing out of the ordinary to report for the worship services... there is the ordinary amount of chaos which is good. We have added two new singers over the summer though! We welcome Heather and Lexi to the praise team and are thankful for their participation! Betty is back as well after being out on personal issues but now everything has calmed down for her thankfully.

Christmas plans and practices start soon. It is about that time already!

Take care and have a safe and happy Halloween,

Daniel

Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Fellowship

Fall is almost upon us and hopefully the weather will cool down a bit and we can start planning some outdoor activities. As of right now we are going to be setting a date for our biscuit and gravy Sunday. Watch bulletin for the date.

If anyone has any new ideas, please let me know. We will be doing another movie afternoon in possibly early November. Does anyone have a movie they would like to see?

Our hope is that people will come out and make our Pumpkin Patch a huge success. It takes all of us to make things work so please volunteer and make things easier for all of us.

Food Pantry

This month is really going fast. The food pantry has been busy, and I began to pick up donated food from local restaurants which has been well received.

For September 4th and 5th: we had a slow Tuesday with 55 families receiving food. Wednesday, we had a rebound with 84 families. We ended the week at 139 and that is a good number. This

next week we will give out food from the restaurants we began picking up from. Our families should enjoy this. Thanks for all the support we receive.

The numbers are: 9/11 100, 9/12 64, 9/18 100 and 9/19 69. Pretty good!! We will continue to help our neighbors and do God's work. We are thankful for the blessings he has bestowed upon us.

For September 25th and 26th at Spirit of Life Food Pantry: Tuesday we served 105 families and on Wednesday we served 68 for a total of 173. Our families have been enjoying Pizza from Little Caesars and produce and seafood from Olive Garden, Red Lobster and Outback. We also had whole chickens from USDA. JoAnn and Gary Strysick were able to get bread and English muffins from Farm Share and Panera is always appreciated. We miss those who were not able to join us this week and wish them good health and God's blessings. A big thank you to those that were able to be here we had a good time and helped many families with more than just food. God bless us all and continue to allow us to do his work.

Edith
emb1002@aol.com

Bible Study

Gary Strysick - jstrysick@yahoo.com

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

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 Strysick.

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"

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 will 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

For our September meeting, Sarah Locke was our guest speaker. She opened her talk with a short devotion from Luke 10, about the sending of the 70 to the harvest. Sarah used the devotion as a lead into what Campus Ministry does. A group of 10 to 15 students meet on Tuesday evening for a meal and discussion. The ministry is funded by donations and volunteers. Different churches provide a meal. Our turn was September 11th. Our ladies planned the meal, bought the food to the church on Tuesday. The ladies delivered the meal to Sarah at the campus. Thanks to all who helped with this meal.

The Quilt Raffle will benefit Campus Ministry. The tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for 6 tickets. October 14th is the drawing.

The "Love Table" at the food pantry will continue. November will be bath tissue. January will be wipes. These two items can be brought to the church at any time. The food pantry clients are thankful for these items.

Our next Ruth Circle Meeting will be October 5th. All our welcome.

Dawn Martin

Education / Youth

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

We are blest with a solid 7 to 10 children for our Sunday School Lessons. Goodness and kindness are the Guideposts for this month. We have discussed the importance of helping others, living our best, sharing with everyone and forgiveness. Our games and crafts help to solidify the essence of God's Message of Unconditional Love through Jesus Christ. Thanks to Miss Mary, Miss Carol and Miss Lexie for their continuing help and support of our Sunday School Lessons. Additional help is needed and appreciated. Contact: Miss Anita at 814-932-0203 and leave a message. We would love to add your name to our list of helpers.

Call To Care (Prayer List)

October 2018

Our Members are highlighted

Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: Chris Price, William Carprio (Heather Austin's son), **Shirley Fields**

Our Military members: Antrone Jones, Jeff & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Randy Barron (Pat Barron's grandson), 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, Andrienne Ramey, Paul Ruen, and Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Mildred Taylor,

<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>	
1	Winnie Carlson
2	Edith Brisson
6	Ginger Clemons
8	Pat Barron
8	Gene Miller
8	Alexandra Seay (McLarty)
16	Margaret Sloan
17	Kristina Aldred
20	Cliff Wissing
21	Cathy Barnes
21	Starr Sheldon
25	Marilyn Hirsch
26	Casey Carlson
28	Heidi Carlson
28	Eileen Phelps
29	Carl Brewer
30	Ryan Minar
31	Joshua Halleland
14	Cliff & Kristen Wissing
20	Curtis & Bridget Haugen
26	Jeff & Kassandra DeLaRosa
28	Steve & Karen Burnette
<i>Happy Anniversary</i>	
10	David & Bonnie Messick
11	Steve & Casey Carlson

October 2018 Calendar

Event	Date	Time
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, September 26, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, September 27, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, September 30, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, September 30, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, September 30, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, September 30, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, October 02, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, October 03, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, October 03, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, October 04, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Ruth Circle</u>	Friday, October 05, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, October 07, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, October 07, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, October 07, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, October 07, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, October 09, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, October 10, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, October 10, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Pumpkins Delivery</u>	Wednesday, October 10, 2018	4:30 PM

<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, October 11, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, October 14, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, October 14, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, October 14, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, October 14, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, October 16, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, October 17, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, October 17, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Community Festival @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church</u>	Wednesday, October 17, 2018	5:30 PM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, October 18, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Fall Festival</u>	Saturday, October 20, 2018	
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, October 21, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, October 21, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, October 21, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, October 21, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, October 23, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, October 24, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, October 24, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, October 25, 2018	6:30 PM

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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!**