



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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November 2018

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



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Web Site:

<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



Find Us on Facebook!

When You Really Feel Like It's Time to Hurry the Call Process Along



What you see above is my favorite throne room of all time, with apologies to the Queen of England. As far as throne rooms go, the 1939 version of *The Wizard of Oz* nailed it.

You know the story.

Dorothy goes to the land of OZ via cyclone. From the minute she steps through the skewered screen door of her farmhouse into Munchkinland, the Wicked Witch of the West has it in for her. Good witch Glinda tries to help her, but there are some basic truths she has to learn on her own. One of them is that flame-shooting thrones and larger than life kings (the Wizard, in green on the screen but pulling certain strings behind the curtain – pay no attention) aren't where you get real power.

Jesus, as you may know, had similar troubles with his disciples. In a story we read recently in worship, James and John ask Jesus "to grant us whatever we ask." Hmm. Then their question: "Jesus, when you come into your kingdom, grant us to sit one on the left and one on the right." Jesus tells them in Mark 10 that it is not in his power to grant this request, but the Holy Spirit. Instead, what he has for them is a life based on his cross. They can be servants, living life for others. This is not exactly what they were after. Maybe they'll think it over.

This is like where Spirit of Life is in the call process. The disciples would like to force the whole 'Jesus is the Son of God and you are his chosen' process along. It takes a long time to walk from Galilee to Jerusalem, where he will be crowned king. Can't he hurry things

along? James and John asking for seats on either side of his throne is a way of doing this. They are substituting their timing for God's timing.

That's easy to say about James and John. Everyone knows that the disciples make serious mistakes almost every day when it comes to figuring out what Jesus' kingdom is all about. When we do it, it's harder to recognize because it's based on our needs for a stable, predictable life.

It has been two years and four months since your pastor retired. You've done a lot of work to get your new pastor. More, I daresay, than when fictional Dorothy walked off the heels of her ruby slippers to get back to Kansas, or may be reasonably expected of Jesus' disciples. So, God, where is Spirit of Life's new pastor?

Jesus was trying to say two things to his disciples (yes: then and now) when they tried to hurry things along. One was that it's all about God's timing. God may be ready to send this congregation a wonderful candidate an hour after you read this article. Or may have done so while this newsletter was being sent to you. Or, God may wait until after Christmas. Or longer. We don't know. It's up to God. That's what Jesus was telling the disciples long ago. And it is what God is telling us now.

The second thing is that if we want to sit by Jesus as he rules, be a servant. Help others. Pray for them. Feed them. Worship with them. Teach them the Word and gladly learn it. Visit them when they are ill or infirm.

When Dorothy, Scarecrow, and Tin Man finally get to the Wizard's throne room, they are given a task. It's because the Wizard doesn't know what else to do with them, to be honest. When we approach God about getting a new pastor, God gives us a task. To be servants in his name, like Jesus. It's because he knows exactly what we were created for, and what to do for us.

I pray thanks for your faithfulness as you believe, obey, serve, and follow during this difficult time of waiting. You are the best.

Pastor Dow

Leadership Team President's Corner

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

Welcome to the Fall Season! We had a wonderful Fall Festival, our Pumpkin Patch fund raiser is behind us, garden plants are growing and our Stewardship Program underway. Many thanks to all who make these events a success!

We need your help, it's not too late to turn in your financial pledge cards. Over the next few weeks, the Leadership Team will use your pledges to prepare a budget for 2019. Without your pledges it will be very difficult to prepare a budget. Our prayers and pledges may help secure a pastor for SOL.

Please remember that, 'Stewardship' is more than a financial pledge. The other components include your **time** and **talents** to make Spirit of Life, the '**Go to Church**' on the northside. Volunteers' are needed. The Property Team distributed a list of small church jobs needing attention. Please contact Debby at 904-318-0964 for details.

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

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

God Bless
Al Speicher

Call Committee

The Call Committee is pleased to announce that the office of the Bishop has released a call list of potential candidates for us for our next called pastor.

Within the next 30 days, the Call Committee will be holding interviews and it is our hope that the Call Committee will be able to identify a primary candidate from the list for recommendation to the Leadership Team.

Please keep the Call Committee and all the candidates seeking new calls in your prayers.

Peace!
Casey

Financial Corner

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

Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
10/7	25	27	8
10/14	35	26	4
10/21	27	25	5
10/28 (TBD)			

Some very good news from the Together in Mission office of the Synod regarding our expansion efforts –

Dear Steve:

Congratulations! The Grant Team for Together *in* Mission is pleased to inform you that your grant application for the **Food Pantry Expansion** has been approved in the amount of \$14,913.

Your grant application really caught the attention of the Grant Team. The scope of your project is well beyond just an expansion of the food pantry. Your need for additional space is easily recognized to provide room to grow for six of your ministries and an ecumenical mission partner. Working with more than a dozen community partners is a hallmark of Together *in* Mission and your letter of support from Lutheran Social Services was very convincing. Finally, your request for one third of the total budget of your project is extremely reasonable.

However, after eight years of funded grant applications, 78 awarded grants totaling over \$600,000 to congregations and organizations throughout Florida and the Bahamas; Together *in* Mission is out of cash. The Grant Team is delighted to award your outward looking, Christ filled congregation with the last of our domestic funds. If at some point our coffers are again energized with the passion of the people of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, we would look forward to hearing from you.

Please provide us with updates as you acquire and outfit your new space. It is our hope that we will be able to share pictures with the Synod.

We wish you every success and are grateful to you for undertaking these worthwhile missions. The Grant Team holds you, your volunteers, and your community in prayer as you reach out with the bread and the love of Christ.

Yours very truly,

Together *in* Mission



Joel Rentz, Chair, Grant Team

A new vision for a growing and evangelizing church



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Fellowship

We had our Biscuit and Gravy Sunday a few weeks ago and from the comments I received it was a success. Thank you to all who helped and participated.

Next Fellowship event will be a movie on **Nov. 10th at 3:00 pm**. The movie will be either *The Shack* or *War Room*. If you have a preference let us know. Desserts will be served after and a sign-up will be on the table in the Narthex.

Future events include chili supper/bonfire. If anyone has any other ideas, please let us know.

Yours in Christ
JoAnn Strysick

Food Pantry

October 2nd and 3rd

Wow! What a Tuesday with delivery arriving and clients at the same time. Clients were not upset they had to wait a few minutes so that they could get a whole chicken.

This was one of the biggest deliveries I remember with 10 different items, all with 300 -350 units each. this would serve our clients for two weeks. We are very grateful to USDA when they send us this much. We have also been blessed with the restaurant pick-ups and have been able to offer pizza every week as well as pre-baked potato and sweet potato. We also have pasta dishes and seafood and don't forget Panera bagels and goodies. We served 88 families on Tuesday and 69 on Wednesday. Thank you to all who come to help us and to those who pray for our success. It takes all of us and we are doing a great service to our community.

October 9th-17th

The food pantry has been busy. October 9th, we served 108 families and 48 on the 10th. October 16th, we served 109 families and on the 17th we served 60.

We have had plenty of good food to give to these families and are thankful to all our partners and to our volunteers who devote their time and energy to make sure we have as much to offer as we can gather. We are looking forward to another good week. See you at the food pantry.

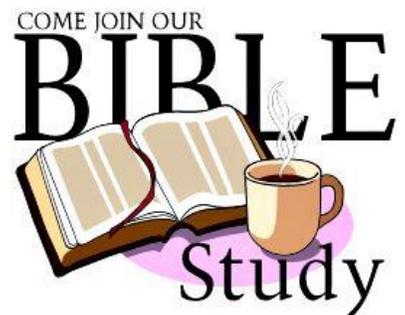
Edith

Bible Studies

Gary Strynick - jstrynick@yahoo.com

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

We now have *two* Bible Study offerings at Spirit of Life – Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am with Gary Strynick and Sunday mornings at 8:00 am with Pastor Dow.



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"

Hello everyone! Just when you think it might slow down just a bit, we have been busier than ever before! Our client count continues to grow every week, and our sources of food grows every week as well.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us pick up our donated food at various restaurants, it has truly been a blessing to be able to give real restaurant food to families who could not likely afford to eat out.

Other big news is that phase 1 of our Community Garden is now open! Gary and JoAnn have been busy planting a cold weather crop in the raised beds. We hope to someday grow enough produce to supplement the USDA food we have every week.

Thank you to everyone who helps make this all happen!

May the peace of God who surpasses all human understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ, now and forever.

Steve Carlson

Ruth Circle

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

Our Purpose Statement: 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.

We shared our gifts..these are what we found.... Compassion, empathy, a generous heart, cooking and baking, math, coordinate an event, time management, health, artistry, faith family, learning faith in difficult times, supporting children, caring for others, caring for family, creativity, relying on faith in Jesus, prayer and thanking God. All of thank God for his presences in our lives, so we can share our gifts and our time to His glory.

Thanks to all who helped with cookies and other ways for the Fall Festival.

“Love Table” for the Food Pantry is requesting bath tissue for November.

“Thank Offering” (small change jars) will be collected in January.

Our next meeting will be Nov. 2nd. 2018

Quilt Raffle winner: Bruce Inman. \$225 raised for Campus Ministry. (\$170 in raffle, \$55 donations).

Dawn Martin

Education / Youth

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

Attendance is holding steady, between 9 and 11; most of the children come at the early service. We are working with a nice group, who like to be challenged with new ways of discovering the Gospel and applying it to their everyday lives. We remember that God made us, and that Jesus loves all of us all the time and we try to remember kind deeds throughout each week.

In the coming weeks, we will work on ‘a servant heart’, learning to help as much as we can when we can. Being thankful for our blessings is another theme that comes in the fall. Crafts and games will follow these ideals as we work with our littlest ones to share God’s Love, every day.

Oceanway Elementary Teachers were pleased and surprised by our generosity when the undies and rewards were delivered Wednesday afternoon. Angel Tree information is being gathered at this time, in hopes of giving needy families a nice Christmas. So many holidays, so little time! God Bless us, Everyone!

Call to Care (Prayer List)

November 2018

Our Members are highlighted

Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: Mary Brewer (Carl's mother), Rusty Elwood (Mary's husband), Ed Graham (Debby Speicher uncle), Don Barnes (Kathy Barnes FIL), Tommy Payne (Carol Payne husband), Brenda Donaldson, Betty Smith

Our Military members: Jeff & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Randy Barron (Pat Barron's grandson), William Carprio (Heather Austin's son), Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Zac Chapman, **Shirley Fields**, 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, **Chris Price**, Andrienne Ramey, Paul Ruen, and Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Mildred Taylor,

BIRTHDAYS

3	Kristie Kemp
9	John Messick
12	Ben Forrest
14	Terry Haugen
16	Vicky Haugen
16	Fred Heinrich
17	JoEllen Ballinger
20	E.J. Roehrig
26	Anita Vance
27	Richard Crawley
27	Ronnie Barnes
29	Madison Hicken
29	Mathew Messick
29	Edward Roehrig

Happy Anniversary

3	Richard & Diane Crawley
22	Lauren & Brenda Higginbotham
29	Pete & Claudia Moreash

November 2018 Calendar

Event	Date	Time
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, November 01, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Ruth Circle</u>	Friday, November 02, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Daylight Saving Time Ends</u>	Sunday, November 04, 2018	
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, November 04, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, November 04, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, November 04, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, November 04, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>General Election - SOL a polling location</u>	Tuesday, November 06, 2018	
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, November 06, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, November 07, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, November 07, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, November 08, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, November 11, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, November 11, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, November 11, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, November 11, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, November 13, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, November 14, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, November 14, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, November 15, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, November 18, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, November 18, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, November 18, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, November 18, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, November 20, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, November 21, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, November 21, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Thanksgiving</u>	Thursday, November 22, 2018	
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, November 22, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, November 25, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, November 25, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, November 25, 2018	11:30 AM

Liberty Apostolic Church Service

Sunday, November 25, 2018 2:00 PM

Food Pantry

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 10:00 AM

Bible Study

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 9:30 AM

Food Pantry

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 10:00 AM

Coming December 1st ...World's AIDS Day

This year's theme is **Rock The Ribbon #ROCKTHERIBBON**. For more information visit worldaidsday.org.



Some Spirit of Life members will be involved in local activities related to World's AIDS Day:

Nov 26: City Hall at noon is the Quilt Ceremony. Steve Carlson has been asked to give the Dedication Prayer at this event. It is also possible that Winnie Carlson might be singing.

Nov 30: Omni Hotel at 11:30 am. Awards Luncheon. Last year, our own Justin Bell won Humanitarian of the Year.

Dec 2: Union Baptist Church at 6 pm. Service of Remembrance and Hope. Our own Heather Austin will be a soloist performing "I Can Only Imagine", accompanied by myself on guitar, Carl on keyboards, and possibly Al on guitar.

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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!**