



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL  
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December 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!

Advent Midweek Worship 2018 6 PM Soup Supper 7 PM Worship

**What do you need for a gathering to be a church?** A pipe organ? A parking lot? A pastor? Martin Luther was the pastor who founded our church and called for a "reformation" whenever we have trouble finding Christ in our midst. That's why Advent is a wonderful time to ask this question.

Luther gave us some guidelines to know what the church is and where it is. There were seven of them.

On the four Wednesdays in Advent we'll take a look at them. You don't have to be a "church scholar" to understand them.

If you are someone who wants to see our Lord at work in the church that cradles him at Christmas, then you'll find these services to be interesting and rewarding. Here they are, week by week.

November 28: The Bible: study, sermons, and more

December 5: Baptism: water, the Word of God, and you

December 12: Holy Communion: wine, wafers, and true confessions

December 19: Ministry and Prayer: when sinners learn to sing

***Welcome to our Advent midweek worship. Discover something new about the church you know and the Christ it cradles on our way to the manger.***

## Leadership Team President's Corner

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

### Leadership Team Memo Street Sign Changes 11/7/2018

The Leadership Team did not expect the strong emotional ties to removing the word 'Lutheran' from the street sign. I believe that open communication is essential for everyone. I am writing this message to address **all** to openly share your comments and concerns with me and the Leadership Team.

A few months ago, the Leadership Team met with Pastor Rob Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop. Among the many subjects discussed, the Leadership Team asked for Synod suggestions to attract and grow church membership. Our church signage was the subject of two major items.

The first was to upgrade the sign to an electronic sign so the church can more effectively communicate all the wonderful activities going on at Spirit of Life. We are a very active church and we need to communicate this to the community to encourage interest.

The second was to consider removing the word 'Lutheran' from the sign. The Leadership Team was informed that other Lutheran, Methodist and Baptist churches were doing this and discovering that it attracted new 'inquiring' visitors. The fundamental premise is that declaring a church denomination implies that the church 'expects' you (the visitor) to be that, to worship there.

Our church Synod is ELCA and we are not affiliated with the Missouri or Wisconsin Synod. It is reasonable that a visitor seeing "Lutheran" on the sign would not know to which Synod we are affiliated without taking the time to talk to us.

Spirit of Life was founded and operates as a church that is welcoming to all who believe in Jesus and understand our doctrine. We serve communion to all who ask to be served. Removing the word "Lutheran" is **not** a move to become a non-denominational church. We are, and strongly stand, as Lutherans! We are not proposing changing worship, music, or any aspect of our church. All letterhead and Web pages will remain as they are now, with the word Lutheran, in the text.

Your Leadership Team discussed the Synod's recommendation to remove 'Lutheran' from the street sign for over two months. At the October meeting, the Leadership Team voted to remove the word 'Lutheran' from the street sign. Our goal then and now is to communicate to the community that we are open to all for worship. An electronic sign would be able to say this effectively however, we are still looking for financing solutions.

Some congregational members suggested that the Leadership Team conduct a survey concerning removing 'Lutheran' from the street sign. The Leadership Team believes that a survey will promote open and honest communication and allow us to hear from everyone desiring to share their thoughts and ideas. The Leadership Team is assembling a survey document and will distribute for your input ASAP. Below are a few comments from pastors that I found when researching this subject on the internet.

A Baptist church pastor is quoted as saying;

*"We rather have people discover who we are, rather who we are on the outside, so we try to remove obstacles,"*

And other comment;

*"It's at the core of our pastor's heart to serve our community and to really invite those who are not part of a church, who are not Baptist or Methodist, but for them to discover love, hope and faith and discover who we are."*

Please take the time to read the upcoming survey and share your thoughts.  
Thank you in advance.

*AL Speicher*

# Financial Corner

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

## Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
11/4	44	26	12
11/11	38	23	12
11/18	49	17	10
11/25	44	24	9

<b>FINANCIAL CORNER</b>	<b>NOV 18</b>
Envelope Offering	\$ 9,549.02
Patch love offerings	\$ 188.00
Church bldg usage	\$ 550.00
Property donation/xfer	\$ 1,265.86
Memorial Fund Xfer	\$ 1,200.00
Interest Income (11/30)	\$
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 13,221.48</b>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 12,044.73
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 106.44
Food Pantry Income	\$ 752.00
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 3,957.36

## Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Oct 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>/ Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>

We have been very busy at the food pantry and have seen an increase in our numbers again. Last week we saw 132 families come through our doors on Tuesday and an additional 45 on Wednesday. We are truly blessed that we have food to give. We were down to the last of the food on our shelves but thanks to God he provided for those who depend on us. Monday, we received our USDA shipment and were closed on Tuesday for election day. On Wednesday we served 144 families. It was a steady stream of clients, but all were received with smiles and God bless you as well as food. We look forward to next week and the holidays and know that we make a difference to all those that come through our doors. Thanks to all of you for whatever you do to help us do God's work.

November 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

What a week! 131 on Tuesday and 72 on Wednesday for a total of a record 203 for the week. Another milestone.

Lutheran Social services brought us 130 totes filled with Thanksgiving fixings. They are not all the same and I am looking for volunteers to help sort and make more from what we have on Monday. we will also get our USDA shipment and will need to make room. Thanks for all you do.

Thanksgiving Week

We certainly have reason to give thanks for the many blessings that were given to us to give away. We received 130 tote boxes from Blue Cross Blue Shield through Lutheran Social Services and were able to divide and conquer and serve all our families with something for Thanksgiving. On Tuesday we served 148 on Tuesday and 38 on Wednesday.

November 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

The food pantry is really helping many families. We had many thank you's for the Thanksgiving totes that were handed out. They made the holiday good for those who would not have had any. This week we served 89 families on Tuesday and 66 on Wednesday. This coming week should be a USDA delivery. See you at the Pantry. Thanks for all you do.

## Bible Studies

Gary Strysick - [jstrysick@yahoo.com](mailto:jstrysick@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 Strysick and Sunday mornings at 8:00 am with Pastor Dow.



## 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"

## Worship and Music

Leadership Team Member: Dan Nichols – [nichdc@comcast.net](mailto:nichdc@comcast.net)



Meet our newest Praise Team Member: Orlando Cruz. Orlando recently joined as a guitarist.

Originally from the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania. He graduated high school in 1997 and joined the Army as a combat medic and was stationed at Brook Army Medical Center San Antonio, Texas. He then joined the Navy in 1999 as an Electricians Mate, and was stationed on USS George Washington, USS Roosevelt, Recruiting in Pennsylvania, USS Abraham Lincoln and Littoral Combat Ship Squadron Two. He and his wife Katie have 7 children Eoin (19), Kayla (18) Orlando Jr. (17), Riley (15), Evan (12), Eliyana (6), Mia (5). His family is back home in Pennsylvania until he retires from the Navy, in September next year, where he will be moving with them.

## Ruth Circle

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

In November, James Perrigan was our speaker. He is a peer navigator at Lutheran Social Services' ACE Program. He is a gay man living with HIV for 31 years. He has used the HIV condition for positive action. The action to help other people know about HIV. Also, to help others with HIV to know they can live a productive life. James is active with a group called Beacons of Hope. He is also a helper with the food pantry program. James says he is not a Christian, but he has faith. He is a happy and loveable person. His message is everybody needs love.

We sent a donation of \$50 to LSS "Teddybear Touchdown" program in honor of James Perrigan. A donation of \$500 to the property team for the new flooring.

The pie sale on November 18<sup>th</sup> was successful. Thanks to all.

The "Love Table" November 13-14<sup>th</sup> bath tissue was well received.

Coming in December is Grandma Ruth's Sweet Shop on the 16<sup>th</sup>. January the "Thank Offering" coins may be collected.

Blessings to All,  
Dawn Martin

## Call to Care (Prayer List)

### Our Members are highlighted

#### Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: John D. Bramel, Linda, Gromling (Jean DeSwarte sister), Mary Hall, Tammy Machlouf, **Hayden Malone (Irene's husband)**, Lois Spencer (Al Speicher's mother), Ted St Martin

#### Our Military members: Jeff & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Ron Barnes (Ronnie's father & Kathy Barnes FIL), Randy Barron (Pat Barron's grandson), Mary Brewer (Carl's mother), William Carprio (Heather Austin's son), Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Brenda Donaldson, Rusty Elwood (Mary's husband), **Shirley Fields**, Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle father, Bob's F-I-L), Ed Graham (Debby Speicher uncle), 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, Tommy Payne (Carol Payne husband), **Chris Price**, Andrienne Ramey, Paul Ruen, and Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Betty Smith, Mildred Taylor.

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Bob Masculine
- 5 Rusty Elwood
- 12 Mary Williams
- 14 Eryn Owenby
- 15 Brenda Murray
- 16 Diane Crawley
- 18 Harrison McLarty
- 19 Claudia Moreash
- 20 Julie Roziers
- 22 Gary Mina
- 25 Our Lord & Savior / JESUS
- 25 Al Speicher
- 27 Fred Wenk
- 29 Robin Blackburn
- 31 Samantha Gullett

*Happy Anniversary*

- 5 Russell & Kristina Aldred



## December 2018 Calendar

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
<u>Ruth Circle</u>	Friday, December 07, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, December 09, 2018	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, December 09, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, December 09, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, December 09, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, December 09, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, December 11, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, December 12, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, December 12, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Advent Soup Supper and Service</u>	Wednesday, December 12, 2018	6:00 PM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, December 13, 2018	6:30 PM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, December 16, 2018	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, December 16, 2018	9:00 AM
<u>Grandma Ruth's Bake Sale</u>	Sunday, December 16, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, December 16, 2018	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, December 16, 2018	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, December 16, 2018	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, December 18, 2018	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, December 19, 2018	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, December 19, 2018	10:00 AM

<u>Advent Soup Supper and Service</u>	Wednesday, December 19, 2018 6:00 PM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, December 20, 2018 6:30 PM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, December 23, 2018 8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, December 23, 2018 9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, December 23, 2018 10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, December 23, 2018 11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, December 23, 2018 2:00 PM
<u>Christmas</u>	Tuesday, December 25, 2018
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, December 25, 2018 10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, December 26, 2018 9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, December 26, 2018 10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, December 27, 2018 6:30 PM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, December 30, 2018 8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, December 30, 2018 9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, December 30, 2018 10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, December 30, 2018 11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, December 30, 2018 2:00 PM

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*Community, Faith and Service*

**Spirit of Life  
Lutheran Church**

Interim Pastor Richard W. Dow  
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*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!**