



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL  
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February 2019

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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## A Salty Story from the Bible And the End of the Interim

There, just to the left, is a picture of what may be Lot's wife, turned to a pillar of salt by angels who warned her not to look back.

See: she's right at the crest of the hill, where her vantage point for looking over her shoulder would be at its best. At the base of the hill are two people who may be looking up her story in Genesis 19. The story itself is full of scandal. Lot's self-made salt statue is still testimony to the folly of looking backward.

I'm writing this just before the congregational meeting to call a pastor. Based on what I think I know about that process at Spirit of Life, I'm guessing that a wonderful new pastor will be coming your way soon and I will be leaving. So, let's talk about the conclusion of my ministry among you and reasons not to look backward.

The Transition Manual for Interim Ministry offers some guidelines, all tested and true. First, when the pastor leaves, looking back in the form of me coming back for weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc., is discouraged at all times. If you ask, the answer should be, "Thank you very much for asking me, but it is simply NOT appropriate for me to do that since I am no longer your pastor." Then I would ask you to call your new pastor.

Second, I won't be coming by to chat or see what's going on. While I have been genuinely interested in your lives and ministries while being your interim, when that role concludes for me, it is truly concluded. If we were to meet socially in other venues, it would be great to talk about you

and your family as well as mine. But, no church talk. Again, it all belongs to your new pastor.

Thirdly, we interim pastors are urged to discontinue all forms of social media contact. Since it's a form of pastoral interaction, I'll do this as well.

The fact is, when old pastors look back into previous congregations, it stops everyone in their tracks (like being turned into a pillar of you know what) instead of moving forward. I regard each of you with a pastor's heart, so I know that too much salt is bad for *your* hearts. It's bad for the heart of your ministry, which looks forward to new relationships with a new leader. So, I won't look back.

Legend says that those who encountered Lot's wife in her "Salt Shaker" manifestation on their journeys were encouraged to stop and say a blessing. So, when I think of you, I will reflect on the new heights in faith and ministry you are likely reaching for. I will stop for a moment as say a blessing on you as the body of Christ. Then, I will move forward into my new calling as well, full of gratitude and joy.

**Pastor Dow**

## Education / Youth

Leadership Team Member: Anita Vance – [anitalvance@gmail.com](mailto:anitalvance@gmail.com) 814-932-0203

Sunday School is continuing to grow, with a record of 17 children participating during one of our programs. The project on that day was working with clay, and children created and decorated individual crosses and figures. On other Sundays, we learned about the three Magi and touched and smelled the gifts given to the Christ Child. We learned the meaning of the gifts and discussed the relevance of each item. As the month progressed, we witnessed the first miracle by Jesus, the Wedding at Cana. Our game for the occasion reviewed the details of the wedding as players travelled around the board to collect water/wine jars.

Our puppet, Buddy is scheduled to appear on February 10. He always learns a new lesson and we share in his shenanigans as he tries new ways to share God's love.

Vacation Bible School is in the early planning stages. Please let Anita Vance know if you want to be included in any way. The dates for this year are June 17 to June 21, evening hours, 6:pm to 8:00 p.m. Super Heroes are the theme.

# Financial Corner

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

## Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
1/6/19	42	33	11
1/13/19	38	26	17
1/20/19	28	30	9
1/27/19 (one service)		59	6

<b>FINANCIAL CORNER</b>	<b>DEC 18</b>
Envelope Offering	\$ 9,084.78
Call Committee Fund xfer	\$ 672.87
Interest Income (1/31)	\$
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 9,757.65</b>
Bldg Expansion	\$ 250.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 10,255.30</b>
Food Pantry Income	\$ 51.00
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 164.06
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 3,851.90

# Fellowship and Outreach Teams

## **Week of January 8 and 9**

We are getting back to normal in this new year. Tuesday brought 103 families through our doors and Wednesday we saw 80 more. We were very fortunate to have oranges from Forgotten Fruit, potatoes and apples from Farm Share as well as pork patties and pulled pork. We appreciate the assistance we receive and the prayers that you send. God is Good and does not let us be without..

## **Week of January 15 and 16**

2019 is already a good year. Jo and Gary Strysick were able to get pork chops and pork patties for us from Farm Share as well as other items that make the food pantry just a little better each week. Our Community Garden is flourishing, and many clients are reaping the benefits. What a success the garden has been. On Tuesday we served 110 families and on Wednesday we served 77. It is such a great reward to see the interaction between our volunteers and our clients. The positive vibes and love are beyond compare.

## **Week of January 22 and 23**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We are blessed to be able to serve our community. On Tuesday we served 128 families, that is a record for one day. On Wednesday we had 80 families come through our doors. 208 for the week, that is a record number for one week. We had plenty of food and are grateful for everyone who helps us in any way. Thank you.

## **Outreach**

Spring Fling has co-chairpersons, Terry Haugen and Edith Brisson. We need everyone to think about how you can share your talents. The date will be a Saturday April 6 or April 13. A sign-up sheet will be out soon.

Because many serve on both Fellowship and Out Reach ministry teams, our meeting will be held on the second Sunday of each month between services. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring ideas. Please join us on Sunday February 10th.

## Bible Studies

Gary Strynick - [jstrynick@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



## Worship and Music

Leadership Team Members: Dan Nichols – [nichdc@comcast.net](mailto:nichdc@comcast.net) and Tom Gambitsky

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR! Your stewardship committee sends out **BIG THANKS!**

You took the time, and prayer to thoughtfully submit your pledge cards, **THANKS!**

Because of you, our finance committee can confidently move forward with our fiscal plans for 2019.

It's always exciting to see our church grow and to be a part of that growth. Your commitment to your pledges has been fantastic. You ensure we can continue to be a shining light of the gospel in our community and a contributing member of the Church worldwide. We pray God continue to bless your sacrifice, your hard work and your generosity.

**P.S.** The Pumpkin Patch is coming, please plan to volunteer.

### BIRTHDAYS

1	Rylie Barnes
2	Shirley Fields
16	Emma Gullett
22	Jacob Halleland
23	Beverly Eckes
23	Ron Wise
24	Bob Hoyle
26	McKenna Wissing
27	Trey Miller

### *Happy Anniversary*

5	Gary & Jody Minar
16	Bob & Michele Hoyle
20	Hayden & Irene Malone
24	Ron & Patty Wise

## Ruth Circle

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

### Love Table for Food Pantry

This month, WELCA is collecting personal care items for the food pantry clients. Items such as toothpaste, brushes, razors, etc. needed.

### Thankofferings Boxes

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thankofferings. Offering jars area available in the Narthex, please don't forget to turn them in. If you'd like to donate online, please use the square reader which is in the Sanctuary and advise Edith that you have designated a donation to go to WELCA.

Dawn Martin

## Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: Jessica & Will Hester, Michael McMillen, Nancy Quina

Our Military members: Jeff, Orlando & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Ron Barnes (Ronnie's father & Kathy Barnes FIL), Amber Bass Barnes (Mary Elwood's cousin), Mary Brewer (Carl's mother), William Carprio (Heather Austin's son), Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Brenda Donaldson, Shirley Fields, Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle father, Bob's F-I-L), Larry Fortune, Iliana, Linda, Gromling (Jean DeSwarte sister), Mary Hall, Linda Hill, Alan, Larry and Terri Joiner, Barbara Kirkwood, Tammy Machlouf, Mildred Moody, John Murray (food pantry client), Sue Patterson, Paul Ruen, and Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Betty Smith, Ted St Martin and Mildred Taylor

## February 2019

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Food Pantry	Tuesday, January 29, 2019	10:00 AM
Bible Study	Wednesday, January 30, 2019	9:30 AM
Food Pantry	Wednesday, January 30, 2019	10:00 AM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, January 31, 2019	6:30 PM
Ruth Circle	Friday, February 01, 2019	10:00 AM
Bible Study	Sunday, February 03, 2019	8:00 AM
Contemporary Service	Sunday, February 03, 2019	9:00 AM
Traditional Service	Sunday, February 03, 2019	10:30 AM
Confirmation Class	Sunday, February 03, 2019	11:30 AM
Liberty Apostolic Church Service	Sunday, February 03, 2019	2:00 PM
Food Pantry	Tuesday, February 05, 2019	10:00 AM
Bible Study	Wednesday, February 06, 2019	9:30 AM
Food Pantry	Wednesday, February 06, 2019	10:00 AM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, February 07, 2019	6:30 PM
Bible Study	Sunday, February 10, 2019	8:00 AM
Contemporary Service	Sunday, February 10, 2019	9:00 AM
Traditional Service	Sunday, February 10, 2019	10:30 AM
Confirmation Class	Sunday, February 10, 2019	11:30 AM
Liberty Apostolic Church Service	Sunday, February 10, 2019	2:00 PM
Food Pantry	Tuesday, February 12, 2019	10:00 AM
Bible Study	Wednesday, February 13, 2019	9:30 AM
Food Pantry	Wednesday, February 13, 2019	10:00 AM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, February 14, 2019	6:30 PM
Bible Study	Sunday, February 17, 2019	8:00 AM
Contemporary Service	Sunday, February 17, 2019	9:00 AM
Traditional Service	Sunday, February 17, 2019	10:30 AM
Confirmation Class	Sunday, February 17, 2019	11:30 AM
Liberty Apostolic Church Service	Sunday, February 17, 2019	2:00 PM
Food Pantry	Tuesday, February 19, 2019	10:00 AM
Bible Study	Wednesday, February 20, 2019	9:30 AM
Food Pantry	Wednesday, February 20, 2019	10:00 AM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, February 21, 2019	6:30 PM

Bible Study	Sunday, February 24, 2019	8:00 AM
Contemporary Service	Sunday, February 24, 2019	9:00 AM
Traditional Service	Sunday, February 24, 2019	10:30 AM
Confirmation Class	Sunday, February 24, 2019	11:30 AM
Liberty Apostolic Church Service	Sunday, February 24, 2019	2:00 PM
Leadership Team Meeting	Monday, February 25, 2019	6:00 PM
Food Pantry	Tuesday, February 26, 2019	10:00 AM
Bible Study	Wednesday, February 27, 2019	9:30 AM
Food Pantry	Wednesday, February 27, 2019	10:00 AM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, February 28, 2019	6:30 PM
Ruth Circle	Friday, March 01, 2019	10:00 AM



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*Community, Faith and Service*

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*Community, Faith and Service*



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**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!**