



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
2636 New Berlin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32226
904-757-9114
Email: chur5900@bellsouth.net

March 2019

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!

Hail and Farewell.....

Farewell to Pastor Dow who lead us during our transitional period for these past two and half years...

Hail to Pastor Karen Biggerstaff whose tenure begins March 10th at Spirit of Life.

Please help us to welcome Pastor Karen and wear you name tag. If you do not have one or have misplaced it, please call 904-483-7948 and Vonda will ensure you have one.

Education / Youth

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

We are so pleased to report that we have 4 children prepared to receive Baptism on February 24. How sweet it is to witness these beautiful souls entering our church family. Preparations included two weeks of special classes reviewing God's promises through water and His Word.

Our Sunday School continues to grow with numbers balancing between 10 and 15 per Sunday. We review Pastor's sermon and celebrate our blessings through crafts and games that expand the Good News of God's Love. We went fishing for men, spoke about the Beatitudes, tried to find good actions in others and resolved to try harder to act in ways to share God's Love in Jesus name.

Our planning for VBS from June 17 to June 21 continues to move forward. The successful plans of the past will be repeated with an evening program, beginning with supper from 6 to 6:30. Large group and then small group activities will follow. Games, crafts and interactive discussions about God's Power in us that focus on Old Testament and New Testament Heroes and our own talents. Super Heroes in all of us is the theme.



Each Wednesday evening during Lent, we will be having a simple Soup Supper at 6 pm and Lenten Service at 7 pm. Feel free to bring your favorite soup to share or just yourself. All are welcome.

Property Team

Leadership Team Member: Debby Speicher - yayasis@comcast.net

Property is off to a quick start this year maintaining the building & grounds. It's early spring and time to get general landscaping maintenance & clean up at the church. Some of the projects completed already is the pressure washing of the church, backflow preventer inspection completed & up to date with the city, cleaning & updating Pastor Karen's office, lawn mower maintenance, trimming the crape myrtles, removing a huge tree along the fence line cleaning & clean out of the storage trailers. We have a few projects in future planned!

Financial Corner

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

Attendance

| | 9 am | 10:30 am | Nursery/Sunday School |
|---------|------|----------|-----------------------|
| 2/3/19 | 40 | 30 | 10 |
| 2/10/19 | 28 | 30 | 9 |
| 2/17/19 | 35 | 25 | 10 |
| 2/24/19 | 50 | 38 | 7 |
| | | | |

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR FEBRUARY 2019

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Envelope Offerings | \$ 10,622.54 | |
| Bldg Usage | \$ 400.00 | |
| Sun School | \$ 2.00 | |
| 2/28 Interest Income | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 11,024.54 | |
| Memorial Fund xfer to Bldg Expansion | \$ 3,788.51 | Designated Fund Balance |
| Bldg Fund Expansion donation | \$ 700.00 | Bldg Expansion \$ 19,651.51 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 9,607.85 | |
| Food Pantry Income | \$ 313.50 | |
| Food Pantry Expense | \$ 100.00 | |
| Food Pantry Balance | \$ 3,878.20 | |

Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Week of 2/19 and 2/20

We had another banner week 127 on Tuesday and 93 on Wednesday for a total of 220. we set another weekly record but not daily. We have been so blessed to have a variety of items for families to choose from. Our volunteers are the best. We truly are using our hands to do God's work. Thank you.

Week of 2/12 and 2/13

On Tuesday we had 120 families and on Wednesday we had 80 families. Ruth's circle gave out personal care items this week which were very well received. thanks to everyone who helps in any way. We are blessed.

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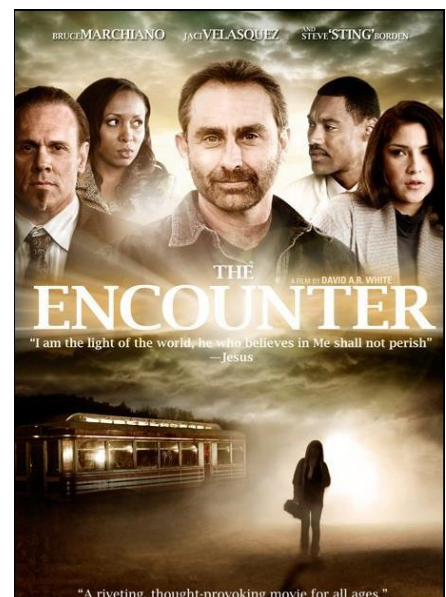
Week of 2/5 and 2/6

Tuesday saw 128 families come through our doors. This week Gary and Joann were able to get yogurt and pulled pork for our clients. Wednesday we saw 75 families, so another good week for serving our neighbors. 203 families served. We are also able to put out clothes left over from the clothing give away. This has been successful. Week of February 12 and 13 Ruth's Circle will have a table with personal care items. Come join us any Tuesday or Wednesday from 10 till noon.

Fellowship Event – Viewing of the movie “The Encounter”

Saturday, March 16th at 3 pm

- From rottentomatoes.com – Stranded in the middle of nowhere five strangers find themselves marooned in a deserted roadside diner. An arrogant businessman (Steve "Sting" Borden), a lonely single woman (Jaci Velazquez), a couple on the verge of divorce, and a youthful runaway all come face to face with a diner owner who serves them more than temporal nourishment. This genial host is a certain Nazarene (Bruce Marchiano), who knows all of their secrets and possesses the answers to all of their problems - if only they would trust him. It is a miraculous Encounter that will leave them all changed.

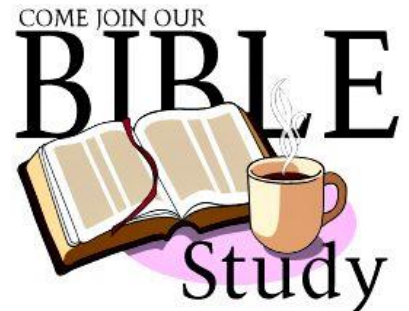


Bible Studies

Gary Strysick - jstrysick@yahoo.com

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

Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am with Gary Strysick.



Worship and Music

Leadership Team Members: Dan Nichols – nichdc@comcast.net and Tom Gambitsky

Beginning Ash Wednesday, Carl will be reducing his work hours and only playing at the 9 am service. His mother has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and he will be caring for her. Lee Gwozdz has graciously stepped up to play for the upcoming Lent services and the 10:30 am will service



Lee Gwozdz (pronounced Gwoats) is a new resident of our Jacksonville, Florida community. After spending many years of his life as a Music Minister in the State of Texas, Lee has retired and freelances around town sharing his gifts as a Pianist and Organist.

A native of Ft. Worth, Texas, Lee is the son of the late Dr. Feliks and Eugenia Gwozdz, both survivors of WWII Nazi Concentration Camps. Since his retirement in 2018, Lee has been focusing his attention on a Hollywood film project that will share the love story of his parents during that war entitled "Heart of Sole" - *A Holocaust Story of Music, Survival and Love*.

Known as Ft. Worth's "Von Trapp Family" – Lee and his four siblings would frequently present musical programs with their parents at many civic events throughout the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. A graduate of Texas Christian University, Lee received degrees in Music Education and Organ Performance.

On a lighter note, Lee played for the Texas Rangers Professional Baseball Team, coached by Billy Martin, in the Sport's Organist Position at Arlington Stadium. As Sports Organist for the Ft. Worth Texans Hockey Team – his music helped to inspire the team to Adam's Cup Victory in defeating the Dallas Black Hawks.

BIRTHDAYS

6 Keira Hood
 8 Maggie Spruill
 15 Tristin Ochoa
 16 Carol Payne
 17 Ann Doolittle
 19 Lauren Higginbotham
 21 Riley Auber
 25 Nolen Gullett
 27 Barb Kirkwood
 30 Herbert Roziers

Happy Anniversary

6 Joshua & Griselda Halleland
 15 Al & Debby Speicher
 16 Gene & Vonda Miller

March Events

| | Date | Time |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ruth Circle | Friday, March 1, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Bible Study | Sunday, March 03, 2019 | 8:00 AM |
| Contemporary Service | Sunday, March 03, 2019 | 9:00 AM |
| Traditional Service | Sunday, March 03, 2019 | 10:30 AM |
| Confirmation Class | Sunday, March 03, 2019 | 11:30 AM |
| Liberty Apostolic Church Service | Sunday, March 03, 2019 | 2:00 PM |
| Food Pantry | Tuesday, March 05, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, March 06, 2019 | Services at 12 Noon and 7 PM |
| Bible Study | Wednesday, March 06, 2019 | 9:30 AM |
| Food Pantry | Wednesday, March 06, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Praise Band Rehearsal | Thursday, March 07, 2019 | 6:30 PM |
| Bible Study | Sunday, March 10, 2019 | 8:00 AM |
| Contemporary Service | Sunday, March 10, 2019 | 9:00 AM |
| Traditional Service | Sunday, March 10, 2019 | 10:30 AM |
| Confirmation Class | Sunday, March 10, 2019 | 11:30 AM |
| Liberty Apostolic Church Service | Sunday, March 10, 2019 | 2:00 PM |
| Food Pantry | Tuesday, March 12, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Bible Study | Wednesday, March 13, 2019 | 9:30 AM |
| Food Pantry | Wednesday, March 13, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Lenten Soup Supper and Service | Wednesday, March 13, 2019 | Supper 6 PM / Service 7 PM |
| Praise Band Rehearsal | Thursday, March 14, 2019 | 6:30 PM |
| Movie Showing "Encounter" | Saturday, March 16, 2019 | 3 PM |
| Prepare Church To be used as a Polling Site | Sunday, March 17, 2019 | |
| Bible Study | Sunday, March 17, 2019 | 8:00 AM |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Contemporary Service | Sunday, March 17, 2019 | 9:00 AM |
| Traditional Service | Sunday, March 17, 2019 | 10:30 AM |
| Confirmation Class | Sunday, March 17, 2019 | 11:30 AM |
| Liberty Apostolic Church Service | Sunday, March 17, 2019 | 2:00 PM |
| March 19 - ELECTION - NO FOOD PANTRY | Tuesday, March 19, 2019 | |
| Food Pantry | Tuesday, March 19, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Bible Study | Wednesday, March 20, 2019 | 9:30 AM |
| Food Pantry | Wednesday, March 20, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Lenten Soup Supper and Service | Wednesday, March 20, 2019 | Supper 6 PM / Service 7 PM |
| Praise Band Rehearsal | Thursday, March 21, 2019 | 6:30 PM |
| Bible Study | Sunday, March 24, 2019 | 8:00 AM |
| Contemporary Service | Sunday, March 24, 2019 | 9:00 AM |
| Traditional Service | Sunday, March 24, 2019 | 10:30 AM |
| Confirmation Class | Sunday, March 24, 2019 | 11:30 AM |
| Liberty Apostolic Church Service | Sunday, March 24, 2019 | 2:00 PM |
| Leadership Team Meeting | Monday, March 25, 2019 | 6:00 PM |
| Food Pantry | Tuesday, March 26, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Bible Study | Wednesday, March 27, 2019 | 9:30 AM |
| Food Pantry | Wednesday, March 27, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Lenten Soup Supper and Service | Wednesday, March 27, 2019 | Supper 6 PM / Service 7 PM |
| Praise Band Rehearsal | Thursday, March 28, 2019 | 6:30 PM |
| Bible Study | Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 8:00 AM |
| Contemporary Service | Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 9:00 AM |
| Traditional Service | Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 10:30 AM |
| Confirmation Class | Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 11:30 AM |
| Liberty Apostolic Church Service | Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 2:00 PM |
| Food Pantry | Tuesday, April 02, 2019 | 10:00 AM |
| Bible Study | Wednesday, April 03, 2019 | 9:30 AM |
| Food Pantry | Wednesday, April 03, 2019 | 10:00 AM |

Ruth Circle

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

“Thankoffering” boxes – the total collection was \$256.20. What a blessing!

“Lutheran World Relief” – we sent \$100 to the shipping fund.

“Love Table” at our food pantry, we will provide personal care items in February. IN March, we are asking for paper towels.

“Campus Ministry” – we will provide a meal in April.

“Mother’s Day” we will give a flower to each mother. We always get a Sunday School update.

They need snacks for the children such as Gold Fish Crackers, Animal Crackers (frosted or plain), and Cheeze It crackers. VBS is coming soon. Lots of help will be needed. Volunteers and Supplies. Watch for more information.

The jewelry donations sales have totaled \$159. This money will be used toward new table covers in the Narthex. Our committee is working on color, type of material, as wells as cost.

Blessings,

Dawn

Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: William Buffalo (food pantry client), Ronnie Barnes, Charlie Berry, Donna Strysick, JoAnn Strysick & traveling mercies for Pastor Karen

Our Military members: Jeff, Orlando & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Amber Bass Barnes (Mary Elwood’s cousin), Mary Brewer (Carl’s mother), William Carpio (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, Jessica & Will Hester(food pantry client), Linda Hill, Alan, Larry and Terri Joiner, Barbara Kirkwood, Tammy Machlouf, Michael McMillen(food pantry client), Mildred Moody, John Murray (food pantry client), Sue Patterson, Nancy Quina(food pantry client), Paul Ruen, and Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother), Betty Smith, Ted St Martin and Mildred Taylor

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Community, Faith and Service

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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!