



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL  
2636 New Berlin Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32226  
904-757-9114  
Email: [chur5900@bellsouth.net](mailto:chur5900@bellsouth.net)

April 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!

Arriving in a new city, at a new congregation, smack in the middle of Lent has its challenges! Every group has their traditions and taboos, especially in a season like Lent. Are the people very somber and devout? Do they flock to the church for special services? Or are they more laid back, realizing that in every season of the church year, we have an opportunity to make each day special?

As your pastor, I believe we have been given this time to learn more about one another, and about how each of us (and then, all of us together) really feel about worship and life in Christ.

There are lots of things we could do during Lent this year, but nothing we **MUST** do to "make it special". God has already made this a special time by bringing us together. We have all the time in the world to plan and carry out wonderful services as we walk side by side in the years to come. For now, let's focus on getting to know each other better, and all getting to know our Lord better. These are our worship priorities right now at Spirit of Life...and thanks be to God for the chance to do them together!

Blessings to all!  
Pastor Karen

## Education / Youth

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

Sunday School is maintaining the level of participation of 10 to 14 students of varying ages each Sunday. We continue to discuss the Pastor's message and make a craft or play a game to reinforce the elements of the Gospel. We learned about the Transfiguration and temptation with Buddy Bunny. We created an Easter celebration church and played 'pass the egg' to remember Jesus lamentation about Jerusalem and His desire to protect all of us like a hen protects her chicks. Then we created a tree with many branches bearing our good fruits (good deeds) to grow where we are planted.

We hope to see many children of all ages come to the Spring Fling on April 13 for the games and Easter Egg Hunt.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming soon, June 17 to 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. for school-aged children. An organizational meeting will be on March 31, after 2<sup>nd</sup> service. If you miss the meeting, please feel free to contact Anita Vance for more information. Her contact information is listed below.

We will need help in the following areas:

### **VBS 2019 Assistants Needed:**

Registration (signing in attendees)

Menu and Food Prep

Prayer Leader (Before meals and at Day# Slide)

Mission Leader (at Mission Child slide + crafts) – Describes the VBS missions

Electronic Communication Masters (Video, Sound and Photo) – setup and monitor

Craftmasters (Small group split) – Leads the crafts

Gamemasters (Small group split) – Leads the games

Group leaders – Takes small groups to game or craft and helps as needed

Assistant Group leaders – Travels with small groups and helps as needed

If you are interested in any of these areas, please text or email Anita Vance at 814-932-0203 or email at anitalvance@gmail.com

# LENTEN Soup Suppers

*Wednesday Evenings*

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.



## Mission Support 2018

[ Thank You ]

To the members of  
Spirit of Life Lutheran Church  
Jacksonville

from the  
Florida-Bahamas Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
In grateful appreciation for giving  
\$1,475

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synodical and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

+ *Pedro M. Suarez*  
Synod Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Property Team

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

## Financial Corner

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

### Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
3/3/19	45	40	14
3/10/19	40	36	13
3/17/19	26	27	9
3/24/19	34	31	9
Good Friday	12 pm – 25	7 pm -	
Lent 3/13		11	
Lent 3/20		10	

### FINANCIAL CORNER FOR MARCH 2019

Envelope Offerings	\$ 9,320.19		
Bldg Usage	\$ 400.00		
Thrivent Choice \$	\$ 146.00		
Call Committee Designated Fund Xfer	\$ 2,000.00		
3/31 Interest Income			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 11,024.54</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 12,706.96</b>
<b><u>Designated Fund Donations</u></b>		<b><u>Designated Fund Balances</u></b>	
Building Expansion Fund	\$ 450.00	Bldg Expansion	\$ 20,101.51
Church Bldg Usage	\$ 400.00	Pumpkin Patch	\$ 1,688.25
Sunday School	\$ 2.00	VBS	\$ 236.72
Spring Fling	\$ 130.00	Spring Fling/Fall Fest	\$ 340.99
		Fellowship Events	\$ 255.01
Food Pantry Income	\$ 103.50		
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 50.00		
<b>Food Pantry Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,824.72</b>		

## Fellowship and Outreach Teams

### Food Pantry 3/5 and 3/6

Tuesday, we served 132 families. On Wednesday it was cold, but 75 families came out to get food. We are so blessed to be able to continue to serve our community. God is good. Thank you to all who help out in any way.

### Food Pantry 3/12 and 3/13

School in Duval county was out this week and we never know whether we will have enough. We were prepared to give a few MREs just in case there were children home with the need for additional meals. Our families on Tuesday totaled 112 and on Wednesday 51. We were glad to have James Williams helping this week. He is always welcome and did a great job in addition to playing in a baseball tournament in the evenings. We welcomed Pastor Karen this week. What a pleasure for both sides! She pitched right in and did whatever needed to be done. What a blessing we have to be able to provide food and friendship to our neighbors as well as each other. God is Good!

### Food Pantry 3/20

We were closed for voting on Tuesday, March 19th. Wednesday we saw 154 families come through our door. It was good to see them and be able to meet their needs for food and friendship. We were busy but it was a good day. Thank you, God, for all you do for us.

### Food Pantry 3/26 and 3/27

We served 136 families on Tuesday and 78 on Wednesday. It was very breezy on Wednesday, but we were able to accommodate everyone satisfactorily. We had a good time. See you this week. Can't believe it will be April already. Thank be to God and to all who help us in any way.

Upcoming Fellowship Activities:

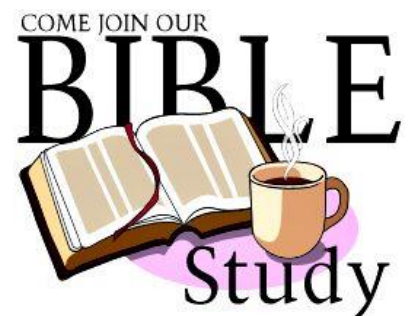
- Sunday, April 7 we will have pot luck and egg filling.
- Saturday, April 13 we will host Spring Fling with Food, Easter egg hunt, Games and more.
- Signup sheet is on back window of sanctuary

## 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)*

Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am with Gary Strysick.



## Worship and Music

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

This year, Easter Sunday is a combined service at 10 am.

Good Friday service at 7 pm. For our parishioners that do not drive after work the Worship Team is making transportation arrangements. But if you are in need & someone doesn't reach out to you...PLEASE reach out to us by making mention to Pastor Karen or calling the church office. 904-757-9114

### Greetings from your Worship Committee

We have a few things for you this month.

Welcome to our new Pastor Karen Biggerstaff. She is available to us on a part-time basis, and we look forward to her official installation in the near future.

Pastor Karen has some new and very interesting plans for our worship services going forward and moving forward into a bright future is always exciting.

We send out a BIG THANKS for your continued financial support! You have really stepped up to show what is important to you. Everyone's commitment to their pledges is OUTSTANDING!

May our Divine Lord and Master continue to bless your generosity.

### ***Help Needed for two former St. James Members...***

Your help is needed to bring two former members of St. James, here Sunday Mornings. A man and a woman from two different parts of Jacksonville with no transportation, but who long to offer God worship and praise and join in Christian fellowship. We will need several helpers to drive them here and home again on a rotating basis.

If you feel called to say "*Here I am Lord, send me*" tell Tom Gambitsky. [mrtomg@att.net](mailto:mrtomg@att.net) or 771-3888 or leave a note in the Worship committee box and may God also bless your efforts to serve Him through serving others.

**BIRTHDAYS**

**APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST**

- 1 Cassidy Haugen
- 1 Kennedy Haugen
- 1 Bob Schneck
- 3 Silas Jones
- 3 Mike Spruill
- 4 Brian Vance
- 5 Megan Vickery
- 8 Irene Malone
- 14 Pete Moreash
- 18 Sydney Kirk
- 20 Pastor Karen Biggerstaff
- 24 Delores Miller
- 27 June Berry
- 28 Steve Carlson
- 28 Jeff DeLaRosa
- 28 Omie DeLaRosa
- 28 Jen Nichols

*Happy Anniversary*

- 9 Paul & Ann Doolittle
- 9 Mary & Rusty Elwood
- 13 David & Peggy Williams
- 14 Charlie & June Berry
- 22 Paul & Patti Spellman

## April 2019

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
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
Lenten Supper/Service	Wednesday, April 03, 2019	6 PM/7PM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, April 04, 2019	6:30 PM
Ruth Circle	Friday, April 05, 2019	10:00 AM
God's Spa for Women	Sunday, April 07, 2019	
Contemporary Service	Sunday, April 07, 2019	9:00 AM
Traditional Service	Sunday, April 07, 2019	10:30 AM
Confirmation Class	Sunday, April 07, 2019	11:30 AM
Liberty Apostolic Church Service	Sunday, April 07, 2019	2:00 PM
God's Spa for Women	Monday, April 08, 2019	
God's Spa for Women	Tuesday, April 09, 2019	
Food Pantry	Tuesday, April 09, 2019	10:00 AM
Lenten Supper/Service	Wednesday, April 10, 2019	6 PM/7PM
Bible Study	Wednesday, April 10, 2019	9:30 AM
Food Pantry	Wednesday, April 10, 2019	10:00 AM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, April 11, 2019	6:30 PM
Spring FLING	Saturday, April 13, 2019	11:00 AM
Passion Sunday	Sunday, April 14, 2019	
Contemporary Service	Sunday, April 14, 2019	9:00 AM
Traditional Service	Sunday, April 14, 2019	10:30 AM
Fellowship and Outreach Team	Sunday, April 14, 2019	Between Services
Confirmation Class	Sunday, April 14, 2019	11:30 AM
Liberty Apostolic Church Service	Sunday, April 14, 2019	2:00 PM
Food Pantry	Tuesday, April 16, 2019	10:00 AM
Bible Study	Wednesday, April 17, 2019	9:30 AM
Food Pantry	Wednesday, April 17, 2019	10:00 AM
Lenten Supper/Service	Wednesday, April 17, 2019	6 PM/7PM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, April 18, 2019	6:30 PM
Good Friday Services	Friday, April 19, 2019	1 PM and 7 PM
Easter Sunday Combined Service	Sunday, April 21, 2019	10:00 AM
Liberty Apostolic Church Service	Sunday, April 21, 2019	2:00 PM
Food Pantry	Tuesday, April 23, 2019	10:00 AM
Bible Study	Wednesday, April 24, 2019	9:30 AM
Food Pantry	Wednesday, April 24, 2019	10:00 AM
Praise Band Rehearsal	Thursday, April 25, 2019	6:30 PM
Contemporary Service	Sunday, April 28, 2019	9:00 AM
Traditional Service	Sunday, April 28, 2019	10:30 AM
Confirmation Class	Sunday, April 28, 2019	11:30 AM
Liberty Apostolic Church Service	Sunday, April 28, 2019	2:00 PM



## Ruth Circle

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

The “Love Table” at the food pantry supplied paper towels for the clients.

We will be “praying for a new building” since the food pantry and Sunday school classes keep growing and we need more space to grow with them.

The fabric for the table covers in the narthex was approved. We also have someone to sew them.

“ELCA Good Gifts” this year will be goats. They cost \$50.00 Donations of \$1, 2, 5,10 or whatever will add up to \$50. This is like the chick, pig and bee programs.

Our next meeting is April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10 am.

## Call to Care (Prayer List)

**Our Homebound:** Robin Blackburn

**Our Loved Ones:** Lukas Billings, Julie Hammond, Bonnie Messick, Frank Mollo (Gary & Jo Strynick BIL), Scott Motter (Vonda Miller’s brother), Chris Price, Bishop Suarez & his wife Deacon Aura

**Our Military members:** Jeff & Trey

**Chronic Prayers:** Amber Bass Barnes (Mary Elwood’s cousin), Ronnie Barnes, William Buffalo(food pantry client), 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, Jessica & Will Hester(food pantry client), 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 & great), Betty Smith, Ted St Martin, Donna Strynick (Gary’s mother, Jo’s MIL) and Mildred Taylor

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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!**