



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL  
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May 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!

Have you ever noticed how far God has to go to get our undivided attention? In spite of believing in God, and loving God, we often just run down the road, doing our own thing, without even asking God's permission. Times and activities that should be dedicated to the Creator of Everything seem a lot easier to handle if we just do it our own way, in our own time.

That kind of sums up the auto-pilot I've been on since I arrived in Jax. Hurry, hurry, get all this done now and show that I am big and strong and know exactly what to do. Then—BAM—I end up in the hospital. On Easter weekend. Unable to accompany "my" new congregation on the best and brightest of days of the year. Boy, do I feel as if I ran straight into the Dame's Point Bridge abutment!

God loves us, and not just because of what we can do for God. God loves us because God created us, ransomed us, and has planned the history of the universe around us. We do not need to do God's job. We cannot do God's job. What we need to be about is Our Father's business, not our own. And I keep learning that...slowly and sometimes painfully. I am not large and in charge. I am small and have a lot of growing to do to become the person God knows I will be.

Thank you for walking with me, and for pausing with me when I get put in time out for trying to do too much at once. Thank you for praying for me, and teasing me, and gently (or even sternly) reminding me that GOD holds Spirit of Life Church safe. The next few miles of the journey should be interesting and joyous, but maybe I will try to do it God's way. That always seems to work best.

Love,

Pastor Karen

## Education / Youth

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

Sunday School attendance is maintaining the level of 10 to 12 students per Sunday. We review the Gospel message, create some memorabilia related to the message and play games that reiterate the meaning of living a Christ-filled life. This month saw Buddy the puppet learns about sharing all things with love. An Easter church was colored and decorated, Easter games and toys were examined and tested, the concept of sharing a painted rock was explained and rocks were created. A game of search and find reconstructed the Our Father, and our favorite game, Trivial Pursuit with memory and consequence cards reviewed our Christian concepts.

Easter gave us an opportunity to try a Scavenger Hunt for Easter eggs during the Spring Fling. Over 60 children participated, some of them twice! We were pleased to see this version successfully apply exuberant energy into a focused action. All participants found 10 eggs, specific by color and a prize egg of their choice. It was worth the wait for both big and small.

Next up on our Youth and Education calendar is the Vacation Bible School (VBS). On the windows of the narthex are sign-up sheets, and handouts to explain the volunteer opportunities for our program. It will run **June 17 – 21**, from 6 to 8 p.m. with a supper included at the beginning of each evening. Your help makes this an event that is enjoyed on many levels by all involved. A quick view of our program includes a Super Hero theme, with volunteers needed to register students, prepare meals, and lead or assist group activities. Contact me at [anitalvance@gmail.com](mailto:anitalvance@gmail.com) for additional details. I am excited to work with all of you this year!

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](mailto:anitalvance@gmail.com)

## Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Outreach Leadership Team Member: Edith Brisson – emb1002@aol.com

Fellowship Team Members: Gary and Joanne Strysick – jstrysick@yahoo.com

### *Community Pantry Outreach Activity Journals – Edith Brisson*

Everyone is welcome to support us in any way. We always need your prayers and appreciate any canned goods, plastic or paper bags that you bring. God works through all of us to do His work to serve those in need. Thanks for all you do. God Bless You. Here is a summary of some of this month's activity:

#### **April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The Community Food Pantry and Garden is pleased to announce the Leadership Team has voted to expand the Community Garden by 26 square feet. This will allow us to grow even more food for our community to share. Remember, it's ok for you to help yourself to the vegetables as you need.

#### **April 9<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday was very busy, we served 137 families. Good thing we had plenty of food. On Wednesday we served 75 families. I didn't realize that Monday is delivery day so we will be filled up again. We are so blessed to be able to serve so many. Thanks for all you do every day and in every way.

#### **April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**

Another great week. Tuesday, we served 124 families and on Wednesday 93 for a total of 217 families. We were blessed with enough chicken to go around for the two weeks as well as other staples. Our freezers went from no room to empty this week. We look forward to filling them back up.

### *Spring Fling*

Spring Fling was very successful. Thank you to everyone who helped before, during, and after. Everyone had a good time. We look forward to Fall festival in October. The Annual clothing giveaway will not take place this year. Food Pantry has been successful in putting clothing out during pantry hours weather permitting and it has been working well. We would like to continue this process throughout the year and will accept donations from you in moderation. We don't have a lot of storage space so a little at a time works well. We certainly would like to get children's clothes. We can still do a great service to our community by offering clothing on a regular basis. As a reminder, the Outreach and Fellowship teams meet the third Sunday of each month between services. Come join us May 19<sup>th</sup>. Maybe you have an idea for fun in the summer. Everyone is welcome.

-Edith Brisson

# Financial Corner

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

## Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
4/7/19	36	34	13
4/14/19	38	26	7
4/21/19		92	
4/28/19	39	33	9

### FINANCIAL CORNER FOR APRIL 2019

Envelope Offerings	\$ 10,856.12		
Thrivent Choice \$	\$ 1,654.00		
Call Committee Designated Fund Xfer	\$ 188.99		
VBS 131.50, SpringFling 112 Fund Xfers	\$ 243.50		
4/28 envelope offerings			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 10,711.52</b>
4/30 Interest Income			<b>Designated Fund Balances</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 11,024.54</b>		Pumpkin Patch \$ 1,688.25
<b>Designated Fund Donations</b>			VBS \$ 105.22
Building Expansion Fund	\$ 200.00		Spring Fling/Fall Fest \$ 623.14
Church Bldg Usage (Property)	\$ 200.00		Fellowship Events \$ 255.01
Spring Fling Raffle/Donations	\$ 394.15		Call Committee \$ 4,434.24
	<b>\$ 794.15</b>		<b>Community First Fund Balances</b>
Food Pantry Income	\$ 3.00		Bldg Expansion \$ 20,301.51
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 220.39		Misc. Memorials \$ 8,640.97
<b>Food Pantry Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,607.33</b>		Property Projects \$ 2,871.47
			Youth \$ 218.20
			Youth Gathering \$ 393.34

## Community Food Pantry and Garden

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"*

The Community Food Pantry and Garden is pleased to announce the Leadership Team has voted to expand the Community Garden by 26 square feet. This will allow us to grow even more food for our community to share. Remember, it's ok for you to help yourself to the vegetables as you need.

At the close of the first quarter of 2019, [we were] up about 30% in all categories. Thankfully, our association with the local restaurants and our relationship with Farm Share has allowed us to keep up with the increased demand.

Thank you for allowing all of this to happen.

Peace, Love and Understanding.

In Christ's Name,  
Steve Carlson

## 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.



**BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Sirena Mia DeLaRosa
- 3 Bonnie Messick
- 4 Tom Gambitsky
- 5 Debby Speicher
- 8 Tyler Vickery
- 15 Dan Nichols
- 20 Evangeline DeLaRosa
- 22 Mary Elwood
- 22 Toni Hennis
- 24 Jasmine Roziers
- 27 Nathan Riley
- 30 Patti Spellman

*Happy Anniversary*

- 7 Dale & Kim McLarty
- 21 Ronnie & Cathy Barnes
- 25 Chard & Samantha Gullett
- 29 Robert & Mary Williams

## Ruth Circle

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

Here's what has been going on with the Ruth Circle (WELCA):

- The "ELCA Good Gifts" goats arrived. The goats are climbing the mountain. They will Continue to climb until May 5, 2019. Many thanks to all who helped them climb.
- The new table covers for the narthex are being made, and we are excited!
- For the Campus Ministry, our ladies put together a dinner for April 23, 2019.
- Thanks for all the cookies at the Spring Fling.
- The Ruth Circle is providing single flowers for all the women on Mother's Day.
- The next Ruth Circle meeting will be May 3, 2019 at 10:00 am.

Dawn Martin, April 5, 2019

## Call to Care (Prayer List)

**Our Homebound:** Robin Blackburn

**Our Loved Ones:** Nelson, Anders, Marie Barron (Pat's daughter), Charlie Berry, Pastor Karen Biggerstaff, Mary Brewer (Carl's mother), Asa Higgs, Bonnie Messick, Frank Mollo (Gary & Jo Stryck BIL),

**Our Military members:** Jeff & Trey

**Chronic Prayers:** Amber Bass Barnes (Mary Elwood's cousin), Ronnie Barnes, William Buffalo (food pantry client), 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, Linda Gromling (Jean DeSwarte sister), Mary Hall, Julie Hammond, Alan, Larry and Terri Joiner, Barbara Kirkwood, Tammy Machlouf, 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 Stryck (Gary's mother, Jo's MIL) and Mildred Taylor

## May 2019 - Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, May 01, 2019	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, May 01, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, May 02, 2019	6:30 PM
<u>Ruth Circle</u>	Friday, May 03, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, May 05, 2019	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, May 05, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, May 05, 2019	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, May 05, 2019	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, May 05, 2019	2:00 PM
<u>Leadership Team Meeting</u>	Monday, May 06, 2019	6:00 PM
<u>Voting Equipment Delivered</u>	Tuesday, May 07, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, May 07, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Tuesday, May 07, 2019	11:30 AM
<u>Boy Scouts Meeting</u>	Tuesday, May 07, 2019	7:00 PM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, May 08, 2019	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, May 08, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, May 09, 2019	6:30 PM
<u>Prepare Church to Used as a Polling Site</u>	Sunday, May 12, 2019	
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, May 12, 2019	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, May 12, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, May 12, 2019	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, May 12, 2019	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, May 12, 2019	2:00 PM
<u>ELECTION - NO FOOD PANTRY</u>	Tuesday, May 14, 2019	NO FOOD PANTRY
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, May 14, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, May 15, 2019	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, May 15, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Voting Equipment Picked Up</u>	Wednesday, May 15, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, May 16, 2019	6:30 PM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, May 19, 2019	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, May 19, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, May 19, 2019	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, May 19, 2019	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, May 19, 2019	2:00 PM



## May 2019 – Events (Continued)

<u>Newsletter Article Submission Deadline</u>	Tuesday, May 20, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, May 21, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, May 22, 2019	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, May 22, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, May 23, 2019	6:30 PM
<u>Fire Sprinkler, Alarm Inspections</u>	Thursday, May 23, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, May 26, 2019	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, May 26, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, May 26, 2019	10:30 AM
<u>Confirmation Class</u>	Sunday, May 26, 2019	11:30 AM
<u>Liberty Apostolic Church Service</u>	Sunday, May 26, 2019	2:00 PM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, May 28, 2019	10:00 AM

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*Community, Faith and Service*

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Community, Faith and Service



**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!**

**[www.SpiritofLifeJacksonville.org](http://www.SpiritofLifeJacksonville.org)**