



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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June 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!

As the month of June begins, we also begin our third month serving God's world together. It's been a whirlwind, in some ways—I know I didn't expect to spend Easter in the hospital, and you didn't expect a pastor who needs your support in quite this way. But, overall, I have enjoyed my time here, and I love working with all of you toward God's Kingdom more fully realized in Jacksonville. We can't bring in the Kingdom, but we can help it come sooner and more fully, just by our actions.

Spirit of Life is experiencing what the Apostle Paul calls "labor pains". For so long, this congregation has made its own way, relying on advice from the Synod and on Interim Pastors. Now, we are facing what life together is going to be. It's hard for people who feel they have been "on" for years at a stretch to relax and realize that some things are going to change. It's hard to get used to new ways of doing things, and new ways of communicating. When everyone worked as hard as possible, nose down to the grindstone, it was easy to miss some of the little loving nuances of being Faith Family. Now, we need to take a deep breath, and begin to reconnect on a personal (as opposed to "business") level.

Some of the things we have taken for granted—who does what, how, and why—will change. And not only is that okay, it is completely necessary for us to get to the next step of being Church together. We are a very important part in our community with our food pantry. It's an amazing operation, and the people who make it happen deserve every bit of credit we can give them for their hard work. However, the food pantry cannot be the only way we reach out beyond our church walls.

We need to talk and brainstorm other ways in which people who are not intimate parts of the food pantry can serve God's world. What about a dedicated children's ministry? That could easily begin with Vacation Bible School this very year. If you've been looking for a way to serve but can't "do" the pantry, why not embrace VBS and the amazing plan that Anita Vance has made for teaching youngsters more about who God is, and what God does? What about a youth ministry? No, we don't have "lot" of teens or young adults—but we DO have some, and they are worth our time and effort. Take a look at our three students who are

being confirmed on Pentecost, June 9, at the second service. They are prime examples of fantastic young Christian women.

And, while we are thinking—what about an in-congregation ministry? One dedicated to planning fellowship meals and activities, and intended to reach all ages, and all ability levels? We have enough drivers to provide rides for those who can't/don't drive, and we surely have enough of that typically Lutheran Christian love of good food and drink to think up inventive ways and reasons to be together. I find it a little mystifying that, in a congregation our size, everyone doesn't know every single other attendee really well. What about all-age Bible study, where everyone contributes what they know, and everyone learns something they didn't know? There are a ton of ways for us to be together. Let's invite the Spirit of Life to blow through our congregation freely and completely. Who knows what will happen?

Pastor Karen

Leadership Team President's Corner

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

Blessing, Peace and Grace to everyone. We certainly need a lot of "grace" since our children, grandchildren will be out of school shortly! **"Let the Fun Begin"**. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and use this time to regenerate our mind, bodies and spirits.

With so many events on our Church Calendar the Leadership Team postponed the Spring Congregational Meeting. Our next Congregational Meeting will be in the fall. Stay tuned for future announcements of a meeting date.

Investigation continues on updating our street sign to an electronic sign. Recently I contacted a company out of Texas called; "Sign Express". We received two different quote / styles using the existing 'white' space on our sign. To our surprise, the most expensive estimate will be under \$20,000! Still expensive however, 50% less than our estimates over 12 months ago.

The Leadership Team is evaluating options to pay for a sign upgrade. If you have suggestions, please let me know.

Fund raising continues for our Portable Building Expansion Project. As seen at Saturdays Food Give-away, we could have used a lot more space..... Please continue to pledge your financial support to the Building and Sign projects. If you have building use ideas, please see Debby, Property Team.

The Boy Scouts have several boys needing "Scout Eagle Projects". They are working with the Property Team to identify possible projects. If you have ideas, please see Debby.

We are sad to announce that the 'Liberty Church' organization will no longer be using our facilities. Their pastor indicates that this church start-up will need to regroup. Please keep this pastor and congregation in your prayers.

Our Music Director, Carl, continues to provide care for his ailing mother (Mary Brewer). While he focuses on his mother's wellbeing, we will be continuing to see substitute keyboardists. Please keep Carl and his mother in your prayers.

The Leadership Team and Pastor Karen are working with the Synod (Bishop's Staff) to set a date for Pastor Karen's formal Installment ceremony. Please stay tuned.

Summer is here and so is our VBS Program. Please provide your support and prayers to help this incredible outreach program for our children. Please see Anita Vance for details.

Property Team

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

The month of May has seen many projects being done at the church, thank you to all that have been very helpful in completing these projects!

A) bulletin boards were purchased, covered in fabric and installed in the Narthex, having the bulletin boards should eliminate hanging announcements on the glass areas. The cost of this project \$120.00

B) We had the irrigation system checked out, we found broken pipes, valves and sprinkler heads, all has been replaced and the system is now up and running! Just in time for the heat. Cost \$295.00

C) Carpet cleaned, The Food Pantry was very helpful by offsetting this cost, thank you. Cost \$150.00

D) Playground cleaned & updated, new swings, shade sail, canopy over the play set, repaired fencing & sprayed the weeds. We would like to get a table or bench. I am going to postpone the mulch at this time, it is not cost effective. Cost \$150.00

E) Light fixture replaced in the women's rest room. Was replaced with LED
Cost \$100.00

F) Replaced vacuum cleaner. Cost \$115.00

G) Picked up pressure treated plywood for the Food Pantry

We also are getting estimates for replacing 8 exterior sprinklers in our fire alarm system, the Boys Scouts have express interest in doing a couple of projects around the church.

We are looking at painting the hallways.

Education / Youth

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

Sunday School attendance remains steady, averaging 10 per Sunday, with 8 families regularly represented. We are discussing the Jesus stories of this Liturgical period with a view of God's Love for all. Our puppet, Buddy and his friend Rory, learned about the safety of God's protection in the palm of His Hand. We recalled Thomas and our Blessings of having not seen but believe. Sharing ideas and helping each other through the lesson continues to increase as our children become more comfortable with our Church Family.

Vacation Bible School will soon be upon us, and there are items and volunteer opportunities still to be met. Details can be found in the Narthex. We hope you can join us in some capacity from June 17 through 21, at 6 to 8 p.m. encouraging children from 6 to 12 to find their strength in God. Contact info: anitalvance@gmail.com or vbs.spiritoflife@gmail.com

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

Fellowship and Outreach Teams

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

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

Our Mother's Day was a success. Thank you to all who brought food and helped with the setup and cleaning up after. A special Thank You to Ruth's Circle for supplying the carnations for all the Mothers.

Our next event will be a baseball game outing. It will be on July 12. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Ask your family and friends to join us. It's fireworks Friday which is always fun. The game is at 7:05 we try to get there by 6:30 to get your seat and any refreshments.

We are planning another movie before school starts the date has not yet been determined.

If anyone has any ideas of things, they would like us to do please let me know. We are open to all suggestions. Thanks again to all who have helped and supported our fellowship mission.

Yours in Christ,
JoAnn

Community Pantry Outreach Activity Journals – Edith Brisson

For June, the Food Pantry especially need donations of spaghetti sauce. Any brand is appreciated.

May 28th and 29th

Due to the Holiday and heat our numbers were down this week. We did serve 128 families. We look forward to this coming week. We received 2 more pallets of canned goods from the Postal Food Drive. We will also get our farm share USDA delivery tomorrow. We will have plenty of food and hope to see some of our youth come to help now that school is out. It takes all of us to do God's work. He has truly blessed us.

Financial Corner

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

Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
5/5/19	35	32	8
5/12/19	30	23	9
5/17/19	40	28	9
5/26/19	30	30	3

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR MAY 2019

Envelope Offerings	\$ 13,292.05		
5/31 Interest Income			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 13,292.05	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,698.46
		<u>Designated Fund Balances</u>	-
		Pumpkin Patch	\$ 1,688.25
		VBS	\$ 105.22
<u>Designated Fund Donations</u>		Spring Fling/Fall Fest	\$ 623.14
Building Expansion from Memorial donations	\$ 2,165.00	Fellowship Events	\$ 255.01
Church Bldg Usage (Property)	\$ 800.00	Call Committee	\$ 4,434.24
		<u>Community First Fund Balances</u>	-
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 268.08	Bldg Expansion	\$ 22,013.48
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 3,289.25	Misc. Memorials	\$ 8,644.53
		Property Projects	\$ 3,772.54
		Youth	\$ 249.00
		Youth Gathering	\$ 393.34

Community Food Pantry and Garden

Steve Carlson - 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 Food Pantry is proud to announce that our May Food Giveaway was a huge success. We served around 230 households that day, which means that we got food to around 1,000 individuals.

Additionally, we had several vendors attend which means that we were able to give HIV/AIDS tests, SNAP applications and various other services.

We are truly blessed that we have the ability to interact with our community in a meaningful way.

As we lose volunteers to summer vacations, we find ourselves a bit shorthanded at times. If you'd like to volunteer to make our community a better place, just show up at the church on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays at 9 am to help pack bags and serve our clients.

Thanks to YOU for allowing us to make this happen.

May Peace, Love and Understanding be with You Forever.

In Christ's Name,
Steve Carlson

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.



<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>	<i>Happy Anniversary</i>
2 Chris Hicken	
3 Brandi Higginbotham	
9 Russell Aldred	
9 Makenna Wenk	
12 Paul Doolittle	
12 Bridget Haugen	
13 Gary Strysick	
16 TJ Raitt	16 Tyler and Megan Vickery
19 Nathan McGammon	22 Billie & Kelly Hood
21 Travis McLarty	26 David & Kelly Kirk
22 Dillon Huddleston	
25 Dan Fisher	

The annual Pumpkin Patch Fund Raiser is Coming Soon

First - a big thanks to everyone. Your commitment to your individual pledges of financial support is awe inspiring and reflects God's Glory. Your gifts of money and time are the life blood of this outpost of God's Grace to the world. All the hard work and time you give for Spring Fling and Food Pantry programs and the gift you give to the future by working with Vacation Bible School is worthy of the name,

" Spirit of Life"

Your Pumpkin Patch Committee is active even in the off season, while the pumpkins grow and mature. Planning and coordination have begun. We plan on the Pumpkins arriving on the tenth or the eleventh of October. These dates can change as situations and conditions may change.

Please plan on volunteering your most precious gift, the gift of your time and labor, now. We will have Pumpkin Patch Volunteer training around the first week in October, the same time the sign-up sheets are posted. We need more people to help with advertising the Pumpkin Patch as well.

Volunteering to help the sale of the Pumpkins is fun and interesting. Volunteering to help offload the trailer of pumpkins is fun and satisfying and volunteering to help set up the Pumpkin Patch is a lot of fun too.

Irene Malone, Al and Debby Speicher or Tom Gambitsky can give you more information and answer your questions.

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 "Good Gift" goats climbed the mountain to the \$500 mark. Wow! Thanks to all who were their shepherds.

The new table covers are in the narthex. The cost \$719.34. We paid \$140 to Teresa Huges for her work.

A vote was taken to have Teresa make a cover for the round table with the same fabric and pay her for her service.

Seasonal covered runners ware being made by Dawn Martin.

Our "Love Table" will have personal care items and dish soap.

On Mother's Dave all the women received a carnation.

Our next meeting is June 7th. We will share a salad lunch.

Dawn Martin

Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Homebound: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: Gayle Barnsback, Lynn Beck, June Berry, Mary Brewer, Rita Hays, Bonnie Messick, Doug Nye, Linda Sweat, Tommy Martin, Ralph Rodriquez, Linda Sweat, Donna Strysick

Our Military members: Jeff, Trey and Nathan

Chronic Prayers: Nelson Anders, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), 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, Michael McMillen(food pantry client), Frank Mollo (Gary & Jo Strysick BIL), Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Ted St Martin



Just wanted to say “Thank you” once again for all the prayers, words of encouragement, and meal preparations for the Messick family during my surgery recovery. We certainly are blessed with a most wonderful and loving Congregation Family! Your thoughtfulness certainly made a difference.

*With Sincerest Thanks,
David, Bonnie, Matthew & John Messick*

Father’s Day Breakfast is coming up on June 16th – between services. All are welcome.



June 2016 Calendar

Event	Date	Time
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, June 05, 2019	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, June 05, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, June 06, 2019	6:30 PM
<u>Ruth Circle</u>	Friday, June 07, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, June 09, 2019	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, June 09, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, June 09, 2019	10:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, June 11, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, June 12, 2019	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, June 12, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, June 13, 2019	6:30 PM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, June 16, 2019	8:00 AM
<u>Fathers' Day Breakfast between services</u>	Sunday, June 16, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, June 09, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, June 09, 2019	10:30 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, June 19, 2019	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, June 18, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, June 19, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, June 20, 2019	6:30 PM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, June 23, 2019	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, June 23, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, June 23, 2019	10:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, June 25, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Wednesday, June 26, 2019	9:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, June 26, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, June 27, 2019	6:30 PM
<u>Bible Study</u>	Sunday, June 30, 2019	8:00 AM
<u>Contemporary Service</u>	Sunday, June 30, 2019	9:00 AM
<u>Traditional Service</u>	Sunday, June 30, 2019	10:30 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Tuesday, July 02, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Food Pantry</u>	Wednesday, July 03, 2019	10:00 AM
<u>Praise Band Rehearsal</u>	Thursday, July 04, 2019	6:30 PM

****No Newsletter will be published in July-look for the
next issue in August****

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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!