



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

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

March 2018

We spread the gospel through love, acceptance,
and giving of ourselves for Jesus.



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<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



Preview of Coming Attractions: A Part-Time Pastor

Someone just told me that they had no idea Spirit of Life was going to call a part-time pastor. I thought it had been mentioned a few times at least, but you never know. Let's talk about it again.

There's the myth that part time pastors bring incomplete results. I believed this for years, but times are changing. This particular "part time" calling to ordained ministry is flourishing everywhere, it seems. Its success depends on several things. One is that the called clergy will give her/his all when working. Another is that when agreed upon times for service are over, the congregation makes sure the pastor is free to do other things. Yet another is that the congregation has an awareness that they have many gifts for ministry that God wants them to use, regardless of the hours the pastor puts in. Team work is the key. Spirit of Life has all those things presently.

There's the fear that things won't get done, communication won't happen, and people won't be served. Let's face it: in order for these important things to happen, everyone needs to be on their toes, asking questions, making sure information gets in bulletins and newsletters, and people's needs are addressed. The idea that in a vibrant church the pastor does everything was never true. Every member counts, and always has. We needn't fear.

There's the hope that someday Spirit of Life will be able to

afford a full-time pastor again. That's great, a worthy goal. But don't let it be your only goal. I've been an ordained pastor for nearly four decades. And guess what? The church has changed a lot in that time. You might agree. Music is different. Ideas about outreach and service are different. And things keep changing in response to how the Holy Spirit shows us what Jesus is saying in scripture and through real life needs.

By the time we have today's church figured out, needs will have changed again. That's just the way the world is these days. If you find that exciting, I can well assure you that Jesus is pleased with your enthusiasm and will work alongside you to bless it.

So, here's a final thought about calling a part-time pastor for Spirit of Life. Why not pray for and seek a pastor who feels the same excitement? New challenges are the church's meat and potatoes, not any threat. And the banquet beckons. Pastor and people who love the flavor of that meal are truly doing Jesus' work. And, I know that's how you do it right now. I pray for these things as you move toward a call.

Pastor Dow

Worship and Music

Leadership Team Member: Dan Nichols - nichdc@comcast.net

Leadership Team President's Corner

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

Spring is upon us, and we are busy!

On February 5, a "Church Use Workshop" was held. Our goal is to look at the church facilities with a critical eye. Our building is nine years old, and we must keep planning ahead for our continued growth.

Attendees discussed subjects like:

- How do we create a visual and welcoming appearance in the Narthex?
- How do we provide space for Ministry Teams to meet and work?
- How do we create classroom and meeting spaces?
- Why do we store our chairs and tables in the hallway?
- What is the church outside appearance really saying about us?

The attendees divided the issues into three categories:

1. **Short Term:** Immediately doable and needs little funds to perform.
2. **Intermediate Term:** 1-5 months and requires relatively moderate work and funds.
3. **Long-Term:** 6 months and beyond and needs larger planning and funds to perform.

Some work is already completed as of this writing. Please take a look around and see if you notice. Planning for intermediate and long-term tasks has started. We will be meeting again to continue our work. If you have some thoughts to share please call or email Property Team, Debby Speicher at (904) 318-0964. Or email at yayasis@comcast.net or Al at speial@comcast.net.

Worshiping and sharing God's love is an enjoyable and rewarding activity. Where are you sharing God's love?

God Bless

Al Speicher

Call Committee

The call committee is in the process of completing the ministry site profile. We do not have much left to complete and should be finished very soon. We thank everyone for their patience and also their prayers.

Call Committee

Betty Jones
Brenda Higginbitham
Casey Carlson
Dawn Martin
Gary Stryck
Kelli Hood

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
2/4	42	26	5/0
2/11	37	28	6/5
2/14 (Ash Weds)	24 (12 pm)	10 (7 pm)	
2/18	54	23	3/10
2/21 (1 st Weds Lent)		TBD (7 pm)	

FINANCIAL CORNER ----- FEBRUARY 2018			
Envelope Offering	\$	7,495.43	
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$	68.00	
*2/14 Ash Weds env offerings	\$	130.00	* Not received prior to
*2/21 Ash Weds env offerings	\$		Newsletter publication
*2/25 Envelope Offerings			
TOTAL	\$	7,693.43	
			Expenses \$ 8,992.05
Food Pantry Donation	\$	367.60	
Food Pantry Expense	\$	99.06	
Food Pantry Balance	\$	5,264.94	

Fellowship and Outreach Teams

It has been determined that the Fellowship Ministry Team will meet after the late service on the third Sunday of every odd month. This team will discuss and plan events and activities that will bring the congregation together in Fellowship and help bring those who have been away or are unable to attend services. Please come and be part of making 2018 a welcoming year for new and former attendees at our worship services and planning events we can all enjoy together.

The Outreach Ministry Team will meet the third Sunday of every even month, after the late service. This Team will work on planning events and activities that will involve our community and bring them to our church so that they can see that everyone is welcome here to worship and have fellowship. Please plan to attend if this is your interest.

Edith Brisson

2018 Youth Gathering

Casey Carlson



We're almost there!

#ELCAYG2018

Education / Youth

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

Due to the timing of Easter being earlier this year, the Spring Fling has been cancelled. Therefore, there is no longer a need to bring in plastic eggs and candy.

February has been a short month with a lot of things to connect and celebrate. Lent on Valentine's Day, and the Easter Season begins. We continue to encourage our Sunday School Children to grow in the Spirit of Love and share God's Love with others. We created a prayer garden within our hands and Blessed those we love with a Valentine Gift. Attendance continues to grow as we see nearly a dozen children each week.

Our puppets remembered the simple cross is the best reminder to keep Jesus in our heart. They will appear on March 11, with reminders of the Greatest Love.

We are also looking for volunteers for Sunday School assistance and/or teaching. Find a partner who can help you with the message of the week. March messages are: March 4, Guidance from God; March 18, Power of Love; March 25, Parade!

Here is my contact info, anitalvance@gmail.com or 814-932-0203. We'd love to have you join our friendly group of players.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is in the early planning stages. Our Theme, Time Lab, will help all of us discover Our Eternal God through the Ages. This event will follow the organized pattern set by Tristen (Thank You!) last year. Various stations will involve physical, mental and spiritual activities for our children. The dates are set for June 18 to June 22. An initial meeting will be held after 2nd Service on March 11. Come join our discussion of possibilities for this exciting event.

Anita Vance



Bible Study

Gary Strynick - jstrynick@yahoo.com

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

Bible classes will still be on Wednesday mornings at 10 am.
We shall try to follow Christ's journey to the cross during the Lenten season.



Emergency Food Pantry

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"

Food Pantry Item for March: Tuna

Our numbers continue to climb. We served 172 families this week [ending February 23]. Steve received signs from Farm Share at the annual meeting identifying that we are an emergency food site and places them at the road on Tuesday. We have seen some new clients from this. This week we had chicken and eggs to give away. That was a treat for all. We are making progress in getting more freezer space with less visual distraction. All is good, and we continue to be blessed. Thank you everyone for the work that you do and the prayers that you offer.

Edith Brisson

Please bring in canned tuna for the food pantry during the month of March.

Ruth Circle

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin—(904)518-6903

Our meetings are on the 1st Friday of every month. Our next meeting will be March 2, 2018.

In February, a thanks offering of \$139.43 was collected.

The “Love Table” received 178 bags of bath tissue with 3 rolls in each bag. The Food Pantry clients were happy to receive them. Come for a visit on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 10-12 to see what the Food Pantry is all about.

We will be raffling off a beautiful quilt in March. The drawing will be March 4th after the second service. Monies will go to support Circle projects.

You can donate to the ELCA God’s Gift Project, “Pig In the Pen”, which will end at Easter. A \$30.00 donation pays for a whole pig.

The sign-up sheet for the “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” is now available. The “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” will be on May 12, 2018.

God’s Blessings to all.

Call To Care (Prayer List)

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. James 5:13

Want to join us in giving prayers for those in need? Need a special prayer? Contact Vonda at the church office or send an email to chur5900@bellsouth.net. There are also forms in the Narthex to add names in the News Bulletin for prayers during the Services.

Our Members:

Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: Carol Ann Bartholomew (Vicki Haugen sister), Amanda Bennett, Linda Hill, Julie Hudson (Carol Payne DIL), Benjamin Sloan (Margaret Sloan grandson)

Our Military members: Jeff & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Frances Bock (Claudia Moreash mother), Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Elaine Ditlovson (Brenda Higginbotham mother, Lauren MIL), Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle father, Bob’s F-I-L), Linda Hill, Larry and Alan Joiner, Barbara Kirkwood, Kelly Matthews, Jessica & Brittany Motter (Vonda Miller nieces), Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great) and Edna Smith (Bob Hoyle mother, Michele MIL)

BIRTHDAY LIST

3/04 - Frances Bock
3/06 - Kiera Hood
3/08 - Margaret Spruill
3/08 - Joni Taylor
3/15 - Tristin Ochoa
3/16 - Carol Payne
3/17 - Ann Doolittle
3/19 - Lauren Higginbotham
3/25 - Nolan Gullett
3/27 - Barbara Kirkwood
3/30 - Herbert Roziers

ANNIVERSARY LIST

3/06 - Joshua & Griselda Halleland
3/15 - Al & Debby Speicher
3/16 - Gene & Vonda Miller
3/17 - Edward & Penny Roehrig
3/25 - Fred & Kara Wenk



March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 PM Call Committee	2 10:00 AM Ruth Circle	3
4 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	5	6 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	7 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	8 6:00 PM Call Committee	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	12	13 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	14 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	15 6:00 PM Call Committee	16	17 Bonfire/Chili Dinner
18 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	19	20 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	21 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	22 6:00 PM Call Committee	23	24
25 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	26	27 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	28 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	29 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM Call Committee	30 Good Friday	31

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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!**