



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

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



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<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



## Seeing Jesus in Your New Pastor

John's Gospel, chapter 12 says that a bunch of Greek tourists came to Jerusalem. When they showed up, they said, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." The reason I'm thinking about this is that I've looked over this passage several times, thinking the Greeks might just be looking for a new pastor. They sound like it.

Having been a new pastor many times, it all sounds familiar. The new pastor comes, and the welcome is open-hearted and genuine. But, simultaneously, we're all looking for a savior. Here's the pastor who will bring in plenty of youth. Here's the pastor who will energize our giving. Here's the pastor who will know all about how to realize our goals.

It's natural to do this; just ask those Greek tourists. But alas, unless there is something thoroughly unique about Spirit of Life's call process, it will probably turn out that you have called a human being, with faults, limitations, and truly wonderful gifts for service, just like everyone else. There's only one savior: the rest of us are rank and file baptized Christians, trying to be faithful and often succeeding. Also, God only seems to call his beloved imperfect people to be pastors and parishioners alike.

If you see Jesus in your new pastor, that's good. He's at work in the person you call. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit guided pastor and congregation to shared service. Some of that cooperative ministry will be brilliant. Some of it will be pretty normal, and some of will

be a struggle. But Jesus alive and at work in both you and your new pastor, and in the congregation as a body, a whole.

Are miracles possible in pastoral ministry? I would have to say, after consideration, the answer is “yes.” But all of the miracles in my ministry (and you could probably count them on one hand) were a result of earned trust, hard work, and faith that God would do the behind the scenes work as we did everything else.

It makes sense to talk about this if the Greeks in John’s gospel were looking for their new pastor. And it makes sense as well to think in advance about how you’ll receive your new pastor. Doing this can head off some problems.

On the other hand, I’d have to say that your expectations of your interim pastor fall on the side of reason, good will, and solid faith. I said at the beginning of my time with you that you had every reason to expect solid progress when you called your new pastor and began working together. My expectations haven’t changed at all after serving alongside you after a year and a half. Keep up the good work as God’s faithful people!

Pastor Dow

## Worship and Music

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

There will be separate signup sheets coming after Easter for Funeral and Wedding service attendants. These will be to gather a pool of people that can help with these services when they happen. The lists will be separated so that you can pick the one, or both (if you want to do that) and your availability. Attendants will perform general usher duties and provide additional church presence when these services occur.

There are three documents being made for wedding and funeral guidance and one for general building use. All of these are still in progress with content being decided by committee.

Our next Worship Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 18th of April.

Thanks,

Daniel

## Leadership Team President's Corner

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

I should not be surprised that our Spring weather is so unpredictable ! Windy and cold then warm and raining.... Thankfully the 'Church Use Workshop' Team is predictable.

We have made several changes in the Narthex with the Food Pantry freezers. Property has scheduled to have the building pressure-washed, carpets cleaned and this week volunteers will be spreading mulch; all to enhance our church appearance for the Easter season. The church improvements continue with parking lot repaving and hall tile work scheduled to begin after Easter as funding is available.

We continue to receive ideas on the Narthex enhancements. If you have an idea on how to make this space more welcoming, please see Debby Speicher at (904) 318-0964. Or email at [yayasis@comcast.net](mailto:yayasis@comcast.net) .

As many of you are aware, our church improvements require continued financial support as we continue to grow. As you are prayerfully guided, please continue or increase you financial giving. Thank you.

We all are thankful for the hard work performed by the Call Committee. They are continuing to make progress towards acquiring our new pastor. Look for their updates each Sunday morning.

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

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](mailto:yayasis@comcast.net)**

# Financial Corner

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

## Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
3/4	39	17	3/12
3/7 (Wednesday 7 pm)	9		
3/11	37	27	4/2
3/14(Wednesday 7 pm)	9		
3/18	44	24	4/5
3/21 (Wednesday 7 pm)	6		
3/25	45	28	13

FINANCIAL CORNER ----- MARCH 2018			
Envelope Offering	\$	9,876.08	
*3/7 Ash Weds env offerings	\$	25.00	
CFCU xfer for Youth Gathering	\$	199.89	
Pressure Washing donation	\$	300.00	
Carpet Cleaning donations	\$	200.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,600.97</b>	
			<b>Expenses</b> <b>\$ 13,457.59</b>
Food Pantry Donation	\$	226.87	
Food Pantry Expense	\$	253.87	
<b>Food Pantry Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,046.01</b>	

## Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Our first fellowship event was a huge success!!! We had our chili supper/ Bonfire on March 17th. There were about 30 people in attendance. From the feedback we have received everyone enjoyed themselves. The food was great only surpassed by the company that we shared, it seems that time spent with our church family makes your heart sing with God's love.

We had a meeting Sunday, March 18th after the late service and made some plans for the future. We will be having Easter Breakfast on April 1 between services. Please join us and celebrate Our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

Ideas for the future include something for Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, Movie Night, and a potluck/ bonfire sometime this fall. If you have any other suggestions, please let me know.

Yours in Christ,  
JoAnn Strysick  
Fellowship Team

God has blessed us and allowed us to bless those in the community who have a need.

Food Pantry – Feb 20-21:

Our numbers continue to climb. We served 172 families this week. 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.

Food Pantry – Feb 27-28 and March 3-7

The last week of February we were able to serve 154 families and the first week in March we served 177 families. The community is grateful we are here, and it certainly takes all of us to be able to do His work. Thank you again to Lutheran Social Services and Jason Clark who came through with additional items and produce for our families. Working together, praying together and having fun allows us to experience the Joy that God is sending to us. Our families not only receive food but also health information from a United Health Care agent on site once per week and spiritual blessings by asking for prayers and receiving copies of the new testament and invitations to join us for worship and always a friendly smile and hug. We give thanks to God for all of this.

Food Pantry – March 20-21

With Spring break in session our numbers were a little lower this week. we served 80 on Tuesday and 46 on Wednesday. Still we are serving over 100 families every week. Thanks for all you do. God is good to us as we do his work.

Edith

# 2018 Youth Gathering

Casey Carlson



**We're almost there!**

#ELCAYG2018

## Education / Youth

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

We are continuing to gather teacher/assistants for Sunday School. In March we brainstormed actions that help make us a better person. These actions became part of our Lenten Calendar as reminders for daily Good Works. We used marbles to aim us towards prayerful contemplation for others and the graces of God. Our puppet friend learned about The Greatest Gift and the sharing of God's Love. Our attendance falls between 8 and 12 per week.

In April we are Celebrating Easter as a family, with no Sunday School scheduled for that Holy and Joyful Day. The puppets will appear on April 8<sup>th</sup>, continuing the Easter Celebration of New Life in our daily activities.

We had a 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for Vacation Bible School (VBS) and made decisions regarding the daily program and theme. It is scheduled for June 18 – 22, 6 -8 pm. We will be seeking our Eternal God

in a Time Lab, designed to find evidence of God's work throughout history. Our Time Lab attendees will discover His Presence through songs, crafts and games.



The next VBS meeting will be on Sunday, April 8, following the 2nd Service.

Volunteers will be needed to create spaces as designers, scientist/teachers, music/dance coordinators, group leaders and various assistants. For more information, look on the Sunday School Bulletin Board for handouts with the above logo.

Anita Vance





## Bible Study

Gary Strynick - [jstrynick@yahoo.com](mailto: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](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 spring months have been times of growth in the Food Pantry mission. We are seeing record numbers of families looking for food assistance every week. We see lots of new faces, and we are told repeatedly how badly we are needed in our community. Thank you for letting us be the turning point in many lives.

We have two big events happening in April. On April 2, at 7:30 PM, we are hosting, along with Lutheran Social Services, a Hambingo Fundraiser at Hamburger Mary's. ([3333 Beach Blvd](#)). There will be 10 games of Bingo, a raffle and special prizes. Our bingo caller will be none other than Karissa Wade. Karissa is an activist who works with feeding and equality programs.

We would love to see you there. Please tell your friends and neighbors!

On April 21, at 9 am, we will be hosting a Farmshare and LSS Food Giveaway and Resource Fair. We plan to have enough food for 350 families. We have also invited about 15 vendors who will offer resources to our community.

We could use all the help we can get on April 21, so if you desire to help your community, we welcome you to help. If you could arrive by around 8 am, that would be great.

May Peace, Love and Equality be in Your Hearts and Minds Always.

Steve Carlson

## Ruth Circle

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin—(904)518-6903

The Quilt Raffle was won by C. Berry. The “C” was for Carol, not Charlie. The Berry’s conferred and decided to give the quilt to Robin Blackburn, our shut-in. Robin was delighted with the quilt. It went right on her bed.

The ELCA Good Gifts “Pig in a Pen” is active until Easter. The March “Love Table” was full of toiletries for the clients of the food pantry who are grateful to receive these items.

The “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” will be May 12<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.

WELCA Spring Gathering will be May 19<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lutheran.

Our next meeting will be April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. All are welcome.

Dawn Martin

## 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](mailto: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: Terri Joyner, Mildred Moody, Michael Peeler, Benjamin Sloan (Margaret Sloan grandson)

Our Military members: Jeff & Trey

Chronic Prayers: Carol Ann Bartholomew (Vicki Haugen sister), Amanda Bennett (Betty Mallard daughter), 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, Brittany Motter (Vonda Miller niece), Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great) and Edna Smith (Bob Hoyle mother, Michele MIL)

**BIRTHDAY LIST**

- 1 Cassidy Haugen
- 1 Kennedy Haugen
- 1 Bob Schneck
- 3 Silas Jones
- 3 Mike Spruill
- 4 Brian Vance
- 14 Danielle Barron
- 14 Pete Moreash
- 18 Sydney Kirk
- 24 Delores Miller
- 24 Bob Murray
- 27 June Berry
- 28 Steve Carlson
- 28 Jeff DeLaRosa
- 28 Omie DeLaRosa



**ANNIVERSARY LIST**

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

# April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p>April 1st - Easter Breakfast Easter 9:00 AM "Praise &amp; Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p>7:00 PM LSS &amp; SOL Food Pantries BINGO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Ruth Circle</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 AM "Praise &amp; Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service VBS Meeting after second service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>11</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>13</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00 AM "Praise &amp; Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>16</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>17</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>18</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>19</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>20</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>21</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 AM "Praise &amp; Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>23</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>24</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>25</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>26</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>27</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>28</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>29</b></p> <p>9:00 AM "Praise &amp; Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>30</b></p>					

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*Community, Faith and Service*

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Lutheran Church**

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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!**