



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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April 2018

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



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<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



Changing Car/Changing Church



Here is a 1910 Maytag automobile. It was built in Waterloo, Iowa by Fred Maytag, who also started making Maytag washing machines in 1909. The base model sold for about \$1200 and was offered in at least seven

styles, from the "popular coupe" to the seven passenger tonneau. One of the models, we are told in advertising of the period, could be easily changed into a light truck.

When I was a child I actually rode in a Maytag. It belonged to my dad's Army friend, who pulled it from a river bed and restored it. The extra width at the top, as you see, was for the very wide hats women wore 100+ years ago. There were no wide hats on our ride one sunny summer afternoon, but I remember clearly my fear that I would fall out. I didn't, but I thought about how much cars had changed in style and purpose even between 1910 and the 1950's.

Recently I recalled all this when I found an excellent article on Facebook posted by one of our Spirit of Life members. It was also about how things have changed.

100 years ago, churches were built with large gyms, extensive Sunday School wings, and enormous worship spaces with pipe organs. Few churches can afford any of this now. The church building described to you above is a much a relic of the past as the Maytag car. Interesting, decorative, and out of touch with present reality.

How do you feel about our current church building? I see it as beautiful and versatile. Make a list as you read this of how many ways we use our building. I come up with at least 8. We are thinking seriously about adding a small, affordable, separate building to handle classrooms, food pantry storage, and other needs. As well, a fledgling congregation, just getting organized, may be using our worship space when we are not in the building.

One of the points that the article on Facebook made was that congregations no longer want to – or can – be tied to high building and maintenance costs, preferring to free up their time, effort, and offering money for helping people, not having a big building. Once those big, impressive buildings told the community that Christ was in their midst. That's been replaced by the caring actions Christ's people do in his name in the midst of his world. They can be equally imposing. Or do you really think so? How do you see the way we are using our building and our resources? Now is the time to talk about it.

Pastor Dow

Worship and Music

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

There will be separate signup sheets 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.

Leadership Team President's Corner

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

April Showers and May Flowers- That is How We Grow!

I feel like I am driving a car through a busy intersection. Looking 'both' ways before I proceed. A quick look back and I see our church planting seeds and nourishing our church and community. As I glance at today and forward, I am seeing new faces each Sunday; what a blessing.

Is it possible that God is directing people to us, so we can start or help them along their Christian path? I believe so! Both guests and church members lives are always changing at a busy and perhaps confusing intersection in their lives. We may never know how a few kind words, holding a hand, or praying with someone will connect them to Christ.

Your Leadership Team continues to explore how we may expand our church facilities. Pastor Dow and Steve have begun work to seek financial 'Grant' assistance. Property has engaged a General Contractor to evaluate our church land, facilities and utilities requirements. (site assessment and planning).

Property is scheduling the church parking lot, re-paving project for May. They are also coordinating help to change out the Narthex and covered driveway lights. Last week a team checked church Emergency Lights. Batteries and lights were replaced as needed.

Our church was approached by a new 'start-up' church, called, "Liberty Pentecostal Church". Frank Jones, pastor, has met with representatives of Property and Worship Teams to consider renting our church on Sunday afternoons. Church use details are being discussed and if everything is acceptable, they may start using our church sometime in May. Their rent revenue will help us continue to our missions.

I thank you for your continued prayers for our church, it's guests and members, new pastor, and our continued life with Christ.

"Ask not, what Christ can do for you but, what you can do for Christ! "
(a somewhat, plagiarized quote)

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 Strynick
Kelli Hood

Property Team

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

Our playground needs some sprucing up. If you can help with this task, please contact Debbie Speicher (Property Team) in person, text or call (904) 318-0964.

Financial Corner

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

Attendance

	9 am	10:30 am	Nursery/Sunday School
3/29 (Maundy Thursday)		6	
3/30 (Good Friday)	10 (12 noon)	12 (7 pm)	
4/01	65	46	6
4/08	30	30	3/5
04/15	40	25	3
04/22	38	32	2/6
4/29	24	35	?/9

FINANCIAL CORNER ----- APRIL 2018

Envelope Offering	\$ 12,879.98	
Thrivent Choice \$	\$ 191.00	
CFCU xfer for Youth Gathering	\$ 330.00	
APRIL interest income	\$ 6.15	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 11,583.98	EXPENSES \$ 12,230.82
Food Pantry Donation/Fundraiser (\$941)	\$ 1184.10	
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 595.58	
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 5,779.13	

Fellowship and Outreach Teams

Our Easter breakfast was a success, everyone enjoyed it. Thank you to everyone that contributed or helped in any way.

Mother's Day is approaching, and we have plans for that and also something is in the works for Father's Day.

More events are in the planning stages and will be shared as we get more information.

Thank you for all your help.

Yours in Christ,
JoAnn Strysick

Food Pantry April 3rd – 4th

Spirit of Life Food Pantry has a lot of heart and soul. Our benefit at Hamburger Mary's had a great turn out to support our food pantry and the ones that Lutheran Social Services sponsors. It was fun! The next one is scheduled for September 2018; same time same place.

This week we served 102 families on Tuesday and 53 on Wednesday for a total of 155. We received our shipment from USDA and had new items to offer. We also had frozen meat from Lutheran Social Services and bread from Panera.

JoAnn and Gary Strysick went to the sharing floor at Farm Share and were able to pick up some extras for our families and will try for more on Monday. We have so much love and cooperation from within and outside our congregation. God is Great! Each of us is a blessing to each other and to our community.

Food Pantry April 3rd – 4th

Tuesday was a surprise for most of us that despite the rain and storms we served 92 families. We had a good supply of food items including potatoes, green onions and broccoli and cauliflower. On Wednesday we served another 61 families to put us over 150 for the week. We truly are blessed to be able to do god's work. Thank you to all who support us in any way. Your prayers help us continue to receive many blessings.

Food Pantry April 17-18 and Food Giveaway

We did it again!! We can be so proud. We served 168 families this week. 98 on Tuesday and 70 on Wednesday. On Saturday we had a food giveaway with at least 11 different vendors. What an unpleasant day as far as the weather but we sure had a lot of happy people come through our doors not only to get food but for hugs, prayers, companionship and counseling. God was giving us rain but sure provided many rays of hope for the 250 families that were served. There are no words to thank everyone who came out to help. It was AMAZING.

edith

emb1002@aol.com

2018 Youth Gathering

Casey Carlson



The Gathering is not an individual event. Our youth attending the Gathering will be “gathering” with 30,000ish people for five days to build community, stretch their boundaries and engage in new relationships. We are less than two months away from this exciting event and we thank everyone that has helped us get this far.

We are beginning to learn a little bit more about Houston. Did you know 3 in 5 Houston children lack reading readiness skills when they enter kindergarten, and by third grade, 1 in 4 have not met minimum standards? What’s worse is 2 in 5 Houston youth fail reading and writing exams required for graduation and 1 in 5 Houston adults are functionally illiterate.

The Gathering has recognized the need to lift up literacy in Houston. Building a foundation of literacy starts before entering Kindergarten. Students who read at home become strong writers, critical thinkers, and more successful students than those who do not. Houston Independent School District estimates that 74% of the students in the district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. This means the students begin each school year at a disadvantage.

The Gathering is holding a ***Blast Off for Books*** campaign, in which we can help ensure bright futures for Houston’s students. We are collecting books that will be donated and distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city as part of the Gathering’s Service Learning experience. By putting books in the hands of Houston’s economically disadvantaged students, you can help change lives.

Our partners at the Houston Independent School District have identified specific books for Gathering participants to bring to Houston: A complete list of these books requested and a box for their collection are located in the narthex. Please make sure to check it out! Please only bring the books that are on the book list. All books must be new or gently used. Thank you!

BINGO GAME NIGHT!

Saturday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m.
At Spirit of Life Lutheran Church



Please join us for a fun night of games and door prizes, while supporting our youth attending the Gathering this summer. We'll also be holding a 50/50 raffle and giving away many door prizes. Mark your calendars now for a great night of family friendly fun!

Education / Youth

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

April was filled with activities including Easter basket prep, continued VBS planning and a monthly puppet visit. How time flies when we're having fun.

Each child visiting Spirit of Life Lutheran Church was able to get food for the body, with the delicious breakfast and food for the Soul by enjoying an Easter Bunny Basket with snacks, a fluffy bunny or chick and a small cross necklace. We saw many smiles on that morning!

The following Sunday had Buddy the Bunny visit with an example of Faith and Hope exemplified by a simple egg. "Even though the mama cannot see inside, she has Faith ... and Hope...." Often the simplest items give us inspiration for sharing God's Word. Sunday School students learned to look for good and kind acts and played several games reviewing and applying good works. We are still in need of helper/teachers. Pick a Sunday, share your Love of God with young minds and touch the future. One Sunday a month is a small contribution with huge benefits!!



VBS planning has included a new and wonderful opportunity to take a Field Trip to a Synagogue. Our VBS kids will be able to see how and where Jesus grew in the Spirit and began teaching about God's Great Love! We are so excited about this event! Imagine seeing the origins of Our Religion, as Jesus would have shared His teachings! Chaperones will be needed for this Celebration of our Faith. Mark your calendar and sign up early, because seating is limited.

Our menu is planned and time frame is established and your help will make this memorable. Financial aid is requested to provide menu items and classroom essentials. Each day will follow segments of a Biblical Journey from Creation to Eternity. We will need Teacher/Scientists, Musician/Song leaders, Craft/Painting Experts, Group Leaders and Background Helpers. Let us know where you feel you will fit best. We would love to share your Gifts!

Bible Study

Gary Strysick - jstrysick@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"

Ruth Circle

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin—(904)518-6903

The "Pig in A Pen" project had \$330 deposited as of meeting time. More pigs went in the pen during the next two Sundays. Thanks to all who helped gather those pigs.

Dates to Remember:

May 12th – Mad Hatter's Tea Party - 11:30 – 1 pm

May 13th – Mother's Day "Flower Garden" Sign up sheet on table in Narthex

May 19th - "Spring Gathering" First Coast Conference of FL-Bahamas WELCA, at Trinity Lutheran Church – 8:30 – 9 am. Registration is \$10; theme: "Let Your Gentleness Be Known."

Nov. 19th – Fall Gathering FL-Bahamas Synod Lake Yale. Theme: "It's All About Love". Pastor Vicki Hamilton leading worship services.

Next Meeting – May 4th – Hostess: June Berry

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: Al Speicher recovering from hip replacement surgery

Our Shut in: Robin Blackburn

Our Loved Ones: Rita Stamm (Terry Haugen sister), Ernest Jones (Betty & Silas Jones uncle)

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, Kevin Hubbard, Alan, Larry and Terri Joiner, **Barbara Kirkwood, Kelly Matthews**, Mildred Moody, Brittany Motter (Vonda Miller niece), Michael Peeler, Paul Ruen, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great) and Edna Smith (Bob Hoyle mother, Michele MIL), Donna Strystick (Gary mother, JoAnn MIL)

<u>BIRTHDAY LIST</u>		<u>ANNIVERSARY LIST</u>	
2	Sirena Mia DeLaRosa	7	Dale & Kim McLarty
2	Penny Roehrig	21	Ronnie & Cathy Barnes
3	Bonnie Messick	22	Jen & Tristin Ochoa
5	Debby Speicher	25	Chard & Samantha Gullett
11	Melissa Dow	29	Robert & Mary Williams
15	Dan Nichols		
20	Evangeline DeLaRosa		
22	Mary Elwood		
22	Toni Hennis		
23	Trey Minar		
24	Jasmine Roziers		
27	Nathan Riley		
30	Patti Spellman		
			<i>Happy Anniversary</i>

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	2 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	3 6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	4 10:00 AM Ruth Circle	5
6 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	7	8 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	9 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	10 6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	11	12 "Mad Hatters Tea Party"
13 Mother's Day 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	14	15 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	16 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	17 6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	18	19
20 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	21	22 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	23 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	24 6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	25	26
27 9:00 AM "Praise & Contemporary" Service 10:30 AM "Traditional" Service	28 Memorial Day	29 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	30 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Food Pantry	31 6:00 PM Call Committee 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal		

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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!**