



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL  
2636 New Berlin Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32226  
904-757-9114  
Email: [chur5900@bellsouth.net](mailto:chur5900@bellsouth.net)

February 2020

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



## In This Issue

- Pastor's Letter
- President's Corner
- Community Food Pantry & Garden
- Education/Youth
- eCommunication
- Fellowship & Outreach Ministries
- Financial Corner
- Property Team
- Ruth Circle (WELCA)
- Worship & Music
- Prayer List
- Celebrations & Calendar

Web Site:  
<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



Find Us on Facebook!

It seems like yesterday we were gathered together singing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve...but it's already February! The plans we made, and the dreams we dreamed last year, are coming closer by the minute, and it's an exciting time to be the people of God at Spirit of Life Lutheran Church.

Last Sunday, January 26, we held our annual congregational meeting right after worship. It was well attended and we had lively discussions regarding our life together in the next few months—and years. It's not possible to list everything that we said and did at the meeting, but here are a few highlights:

The overwhelming majority of members present voted to gather at one combined worship service on Sundays. For the time being, Sunday School for adults and children will remain at 9am, with worship at 10am. Realize that this time is what works right now, but we are not tied to those times. Of course, if we change Sunday School and service times, we would only do so after plenty of advance warning, and after surveying all of us to see what works. Churches have always had to juggle to get all their activities at “convenient” times, and members have always had to prioritize what events they will attend, and what events they must miss. It is completely possible to have an additional adult Bible study at another time besides Sunday morning if that works for us.

We heard about steps to move forward with our expansion program! God is amazing, and we have been given an opportunity to have a portable building brought to our door steps. We're short on details at this time, but stay tuned, because there will be plenty of chances for you to be part of the growth! Each of us must prayerfully determine how we can be the best stewards of our resources, and commit to lots of elbow grease as well as honoring our tithes and pledges for this expansion to happen—but enthusiasm has never been in short supply at Spirit of Life.

We will be starting a choir—or perhaps an expanded Praise Team is a better description. In our attempts to get more—and more varied—music into our worship, everyone will be asked to listen to the songs on line (you can find them on our Facebook page) and sing out with all our hearts on Sunday mornings. Mike Spottswood, our minister of music, would love to fill you in on details of where and when we will be practicing and why YOU can (and should!) consider singing with the group. Realize that, at least at first, you might be doing some sitting and listening as well as singing. Beautiful church music doesn't just happen; it takes hard work and a real love of the Lord to mold us into an angel choir.

Ash Wednesday this year is on February 26. We will have one service with reception of ashes at noon, and another exactly alike at 7pm. Each Wednesday in Lent we will have a soup supper at 6pm, and a Bible study beginning at 7pm. The theme this year is “Why do we have Easter?” We'll explore the ways in which Christ's ministry and passion opened the door to our salvation, from the point of view of several of His followers.

Well, those are the highlights. Yes, I have left some things out—but then, you know you want to find out all about those things yourself. We have exciting plans for evangelism, outreach, our youth program, etc. So...we will see you in worship at 10am on Sunday mornings at Spirit of Life. We look forward to our time together! Blessings to you all.

Pastor Karen

## Community Food Pantry and Garden

Edith Brisson – [emb1002@aol.com](mailto:emb1002@aol.com)

*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"*

January has started off in good fashion. We served 225 the first week and 221 the second week. It is a good year and we hope to continue to be able to serve as many people in our community that need assistance with food as well as provide them with food for their souls. We continue to be able to offer clothing as it comes to us and this is very much appreciated.

Despite temperatures in the 30s and wind chill of 25, the food pantry served 109 families on Tuesday, January 21st and 81 families on Wednesday, January 22. We are truly blessed. This week will be warmer with rain possible. We will be here to serve. Thanks for all you do to make this mission successful.

1/28 & 1/29 - Great week. We served 126 families on Tuesday and 118 on Wednesday. We had chicken breasts and fresh fruit, apples, pears and oranges for our families.

We are working well with our partners and have the best volunteers. The food Pantry is a church wide ministry and serves our community proudly and to the glory of God. Thank you.

Ruth's Circle continues to have a love table monthly and offer items that the food pantry does not usually have access to. This month they will host a table of miscellaneous items. We are proud to have this ministry team working with us.

We can use volunteers on Wednesdays. It used to be a slower day and we were managing pretty well but our numbers are increasing to 90 and above on many Wednesdays, making it a challenge. Come see what you can do to make someone's life just a little better by your presence.

Thanks to the many people who do help us in many ways. We can also use plastic and paper bags.

Edith

## Education / Youth

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

Strong beliefs in Jesus and Baptism for the Children of God drive the lessons and games during this period which examines Jesus' Life in the public eye. We have spent time with Buddy Bunny examining Baptism, and looked within ourselves to find Discipleship as Fishers of Men and found our instructions in the Beatitudes. Leading into Easter, Lent activities will search for God's promises to us and our contract with Him. Small gestures can become our Light and our search for the truth in Jesus will help us to find Him in our Neighbor, as Jesus Himself has reiterated in His many parables.

Easter Services will be for all family Members, as we encourage everyone to participate in one of our Holiest Celebrations of Life.

Plans are beginning to shape up for Vacation Bible School, "Mystery Island" from June 15 to 19, 6 – 8 p.m. We will be on the lookout for Facilitators for Crafts, Science, Games, Food and Groups. Come play with us during our Great Adventure!! Save the date, signup sheets will be coming.

Extra hands are in need for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month to help with Sunday School. Find a partner to share times and join our Sunday School Family. Contact Anita at [anitalvance@gmail.com](mailto:anitalvance@gmail.com)

## eCommunication

Leadership Team Member: Kristina Aldred – [kaldred@bellsouth.net](mailto:kaldred@bellsouth.net) 678-761-6387



Praise be to God that we've had several new members join in the past year. As life changes so do we; with that said I am in the process of updating our church directory. The information being accurate ensures that the church office or your fellow church family can contact you. Please check the Narthex bulletin board for a draft copy. If changes are needed, please make them on the draft copy, if no changes are needed leave as is. CHANGES or NO CHANGES please put your INITIALS next to your name, so I know that you reviewed the copy for accuracy. Once every member has reviewed the draft and initialed it, hard copies will be made and distributed. If you need clarification or have any questions, feel free to email me at the church [chur5900@bellsouth.net](mailto:chur5900@bellsouth.net) and/or call or text me at 904-483-7948.

Thanking you in advance,  
Vonda

**PLAYING HERE – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> AT 3 P.M. PLEASE JOIN US TO SEE THIS GREAT MOVIE!**



High school basketball coach John Harrison and his team face an uncertain future when their town's largest manufacturing plant shuts down unexpectedly. As hundreds of people move away, John reluctantly agrees to coach cross-country, a sport he doesn't even like. His outlook soon changes when he meets Hannah Scott, an unlikely runner who pushes herself to the limit. Inspired by the words and prayers of a new friend, John starts to train Hannah for the biggest race of her young life.

## Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

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

Fellowship Team Member: Joanne Strysick – jstrysick@yahoo.com

After church service on Sunday the 9th we will have a meeting in conjunction with outreach to work on our Fall Festival actives; we would like to have a craft show. We would like anyone who is interested to attend to help with their ideas.

Think about how our festivals can become bigger and better. What can we do differently???

How else can we open up to our community??

We need your input!!!!

Stay tune for more information coming soon about the new sewing group. Contact Debby Speicher for any questions.

## Financial Corner

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

### ATTENDANCE

	<u>Church</u>	<u>SunSchool</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Jan 5	65	9	74
Jan 12	49	6	55
Jan 19	59	7	66
Jan 26	56	3	60

### FINANCIAL CORNER FOR JANUARY 2020

<b><u>Envelope Offerings</u></b>	<b>\$ 9,485.85</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>*\$11,862.72</b>
1/31 interest income		*included \$2068.96 bills from 2019	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 9,485.85</b>		-
		<b><u>Designated Fund Balances</u></b>	-
		Pumpkin Patch	\$ 1,818.82
		VBS	\$ 200.00
		Spring Fling/Fall Fest	\$ 790.55
Food Pantry Income	\$ 340.00	Fellowship Events	\$ 260.01
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 324.47	Call Committee	\$ 2,995.02
<b>Food Pantry Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,957.90</b>		
		<b>Bldg Expansion Fund</b>	<b>\$ 30,440.89</b>
<b>Bldg/Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>\$220,965.01</b>		

## Property Team

**Leadership Team Member: Debby Speicher - [yayasis@comcast.net](mailto:yayasis@comcast.net)**

Property team is starting the year off with a bang! We were able to get the playground disassembled in preparation for the new (new to us) building! Hopefully the building will be in place in February, we will still have much to do until we will be able to use it, but it's our priority to move quickly to get everything done in a timely manner! We have A few projects to take care of in the next few weeks. We are looking to clean up around the pond, thin out some of the pine trees, cut down all the giant weeds and do some general cleaning.

## Ruth Circle (WELCA)

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

**Dawn Martin (904)518-6903**

January was "Thankoffering" collection month. Coins were collected and prayed for God's use over the past year. The money will go to support Grants, Scholarships, Bible Studies, Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls, ELCA World Hunger, LCA malaria Campaign, as well as many other ministries.

"Grandma Ruth's Sweet Shop" has \$218 in sales. The total amount went to the Expansion Fund.

The "Love Table" at the Food Pantry was miscellaneous items ... soap, shampoo, and odds and ends.

Our next meeting will be February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings,  
Dawn Martin

## Worship & Music

**Leadership Team Member: Dan Nichols**

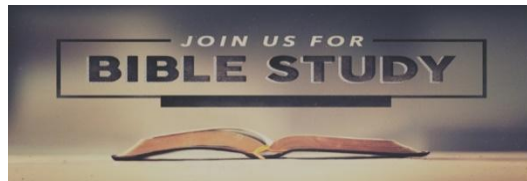
We have wrapped up the congregational meeting and the big takeaway for Worship is that we will remain with the one service format indefinitely. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of continuing as we are with the one service. Several people have told me over the trial period that they enjoyed seeing everyone at the same time so I believe this was a big motivator for the vote turning out the way it did and indeed it is a good thing. There is still room to tweak things as we see this service evolve and settle out more.

Beyond this we will likely be seeing more people participate in singing up front. You may have already noticed some new faces. If you are interested please speak with our music director Mike. You certainly do not have to be a pro! We will likely begin rehearsals probably in the next month or so but the day and time of the week is yet to be determined. We are also looking into getting a set of drums pretty soon and we already have some people interested in playing them.



This may be my last article as we are electing new officers this year and I'll be taking a break! I will still be doing sound, presentations and different odd jobs as needed. Thanks for all your support and I feel like this is going to be a great year for Spirit of Life.

Love,  
Daniel



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

"Manna and Mercy Bible Study" held Wednesdays at 9 AM and an evening class, date and time to be determined. Sign-up sheet is on the Narthex bulletin board. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to speak to **Gary Strynick** or call him at **904-248-8145**.

<u>February Birthdays</u>	<u>February Anniversaries</u>
<div data-bbox="87 1121 470 1507"> <p>1 Rylie Barnes</p> <p>2 Shirley Fields</p> <p>15 Jon Moorman</p> <p>22 Jacob Halleland</p> <p>23 Beverly Eckes</p> <p>23 Ron Wise</p> <p>24 Bob Hoyle</p> <p>26 McKenna Wissing</p> <p>27 Trey Miller</p> </div> <div data-bbox="191 1507 609 1906"> </div>	<div data-bbox="781 1121 1252 1255"> <p>16 Bob &amp; Michele Hoyle</p> <p>20 Hayden &amp; Irene Malone</p> <p>24 Ron &amp; Patty Wise</p> </div> <div data-bbox="933 1331 1312 1495"> </div>

# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 AM Church Service	3	4 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	5 9:00 AM Manna and Mercy Bible Study 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	6	7 10:00 AM Ruth Circle	8
9 LT officer installation 10:00 AM Church Service 11:00 AM Fall Festival Planning	10	11 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	12 9:00 AM Manna and Mercy Bible Study 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 10:00 AM Church Service	17	18 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	19 9:00 AM Manna and Mercy Bible Study 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	20	21	22 3:00 PM Movie & Pot Luck
23 10:00 AM Church Service	24 6:00 PM Leadership Team Meeting	25 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	26 Ash Wednesday Services @ 12 & 7 9:00 AM Manna and Mercy Bible Study 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	27	28	29



## Call to Care (Prayer List)

**Our Loved Ones:** Kidd Driver, Kevin Demarest, Wayne Hanna (Tammy Martins father), Julie Hammond, Linda House & son, John Messick, Brittany Motter, Sandra Mullins, and Donna Strysick,

**Our Military members:** Eric, Jeff, Nathan and Anthony

**Chronic Prayers:** Hope Bissell, Jimmy & Faye Carter, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle father, Bob's F-I-L), Julie Hammond, Larry and Terri Joiner, Barbara Kirkwood, Erika Moorman, Sue Patterson, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great) and John Tucker

**Spirit of Life Lutheran Church**  
**2636 New Berlin Road**  
**Jacksonville, Florida 32226**

*Community, Faith and Service*

Spirit of Life  
Lutheran Church

2636 New Berlin Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32226

Phone: 904-757-9114

Email: [chur5900@bellsouth.net](mailto:chur5900@bellsouth.net)

*Community, Faith and Service*



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