



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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March 2020

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!

Traditionally, we say that March is the month that “comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb”. That’s all about the weather, of course—March is usually the transition month between deep winter, and approaching spring. However, for Christians this year, March is about the Lion of Judah, and the Lamb who was slain. February 26 was Ash Wednesday, and throughout March, we will be exploring what Jesus has to do with our lives, and how Easter matters to us.

Each Wednesday evening in March we will study one of the people present in Jesus’ ministry, and ask how our Savior changed things for that person—and for all of us. During Lent, we “church folks” have looked for ways in which we can become more like Christ in our daily lives. Years ago, that might have meant “giving up” something as a trial to see what Jesus felt as He sacrificed everything for us. But really, Lent is a long enough period of time that, if we truly want to change and become more like Jesus, we have plenty of time to begin a set of new and better habits for ourselves and our loved ones. We have time to make healthy exercise a habit. We have time for remembering to practice patience, kindness, and forgiveness—**IF** we choose to do so. Lent can be a turning point in all our lives, and God knows we could all use some more healthy and holy habits. Please plan to join us at our Lenten meals on March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1 as we gather for supper at 6pm. After our simple but filling meal, we will begin our study at 7pm. We will have communion around the table each evening, reminding ourselves that each time we gather, something sacred happens.

Speaking of being involved in sacred things—please plan to join us on Saturday, March 14 at 11a.m. as we celebrate the life of our beloved sister in Christ, Vicki Haugen. Of all the good and holy things God gives us, the most important is the love of the people with whom we gather to worship God. Vicki has been a special part of Spirit of Life for so many

years, and it is right and proper that we join to thank God for all the blessings she has brought us—and all the ways in which she has taught us to value our faith and our congregation. There will be a luncheon in our narthex (well, pretty much all through our church, actually!) after the celebration, when we can share favorite “Vicki memories”.

If you sing—or even if you don’t sing YET—there is room for you at the front of the sanctuary with our Praise Team on Sunday mornings. Each week our musical offering gets better as we become used to one service when we sing, and listen, and love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you don’t yet know Mike Spottswood, our Minister of Music, be sure to introduce yourself and talk to him. I think there are times when I can actually **see** music dripping from his fingertips—he’s that talented! And how he loves the Lord! If you have special hymns or praise songs you’d like for us to sing, be sure to talk to Mike. Instrumentalists—your opportunity to shine on our Praise Team is also coming. Talk to Mike!!

We have so very much for which to be thankful. Our congregational cup is practically running over with chances to join, and give, and serve. Think Spring Fling. Think Palm Sunday and Easter. Think of planning and being part of VBS. And those are just a very few of the things for which all we can do is bow our heads...and say thanks be to God for all God’s blessings!!

Blessings to you all.
Pastor Karen

President’s Corner

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

Your recently installed Leadership Team is running wide open this spring.

Property is expecting delivery of our new Modular Building within a week or so depending on the weather. The transport and setup may take a few days and we will keep everyone up to date as we are appraised. Once onsite, our general contractor will begin pulling permits to connect electric, water and sewer. I know we all have been discussing how to best utilize the space. Once we see the building setup, our ideas can be tested.

Finance and Church Office teams have been working on additional financing needed to make the building ready for our use. When we have all of the information on this process, we will let everyone know.

Outreach has begun planning for the Spring Fling (Easter Egg Hunt) and the fall event now being called, “October Fest” ! We will be changing the format of the events to improve community participation. The October Fest will include Craft and Food Vendors renting space for the event. If you know of ‘Crafters’ please see Debby Speicher and provide them your info. We want to get the date and time of the event to them early for planning.

Our Praise Team is off to a great start. Please pass the word to anyone who wants to sing or play an instrument. Please contact our Music Director, Mike Spotswood (904-534-0570).

We have many activities taking place now and in the near future. It is exciting that there are opportunities for everyone to participate. Please take a moment to see where your time and talents can help us GROW.

Blessings, grace and peace.

AL Speicher

Community Food Pantry and Garden

Edith Brisson – 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"

Feb, 4 & 5

Not a record but pretty close. We served 145 families on Tuesday and 130 families on Wednesday. That is a total of 275.

We were very fortunate to have fresh fruit again and frozen chicken breasts. God provides for us and in turn He expects that we will serve Him well and give Him the glory.

Praise be to God and Thanks be to all of you for your service to Him.

February 11 and 12

We served 166 families on Tuesday; that is the highest on Tuesday since the end of November. On Wednesday we served 87 families which makes 253 for the week.

We continue to be blessed with food and extra items for our clients. We had fresh eggs from USDA this week and ham slices.

We can always use plastic and paper bags and thank everyone who brings them in, Pat Barron wouldn't know what to do if we didn't give a bag full to straighten. We appreciate you, Pat.

Debby Speicher is helping out by picking up restaurant items on Thursday. I'm looking for help to repackage the vegetables we get from Outback Steak House on Thursday mornings. If you have an hour or so starting at 9:30 I would be glad for the company.

February 18 and 19

We had another great week with serving 167 families on Tuesday. On Wednesday we served 93 for a total of 260 this week.

Thanks for all you do

February 25 and 26

We ended the month on a high note serving 250 families this week even though it was really raining on Tuesday. Tuesday we served 130 and Wednesday 120.

This week we had apples and oranges, milk and butter and we even had soup. Families took a very nice variety of food home.

Thanks for all you do.

Edith

Education / Youth

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

Sunday School attendance is slowly raising to average 10 to 12 per Sunday. Puppet Sundays have an increased attendance, with Miss Mary and Miss Patti providing crafts and games for the theme. An additional aide is found in Miss Irene who assists in the classroom on the last Sunday of the month. Our Nursery Attendant, Miss Janez is due to deliver her baby in April, and may return afterwards.

Sunday highlights include creating a 'Fishers of Men' craft, including one for the bulletin board, Valentines of Thankfulness, Forgiven hearts with the Cross as God's Valentine to us, and reminders through art of Creation, leading to Ash Wednesday/Easter correlations.

Buddy Bunny was able to help us all recharge on Sundays when his flashlight malfunctioned. He continues to look for new perspectives of understanding God's Love for us. Appearances on the 2nd Sunday of each month are continuing to be planned.

The Youth and Ed portion of Outreach's March 28 Spring Fling include a Scavenger Hunt format, with the Annual egg Stuffing Luncheon on March 22. We prepare for 100 participants, with each child retrieving 10 eggs. Once each hunt is finished and verified, each child may choose 1 single Jumbo egg with larger prizes. This year will also include 2 Golden Eggs in each age category for even larger prizes.

eCommunication

Leadership Team Member: Kristina Aldred – kaldred@bellsouth.net 678-761-6387



Don't forget your photos for directory.

If you need clarification or have any questions, feel free to email me at the church chur5900@bellsouth.net and/or call or text me at 904-483-7948.

Thanking you in advance,
Vonda

Ministry Teams

Pastor - Pastor Karen Biggerstaff
Music Director - Mike Spotswood
Office and Congregation Secretary - Vonda Miller
Leadership Team
President - Al Spiecher
Vice President - Debbie Burrell
Secretary - Micah Polichnia
Treasurer - David Williams

Gathering and Servicing Community

eCommunication - Kristina Aldred
Community Food Pantry & Garden - Gary Strynick
Fellowship Ministry - JoAnn Strynick
Outreach Ministry - Debby Speicher

Building Faith

Education / Youth - Anita Vance
Worship & Music - Vonda Miller

Ministry Support

Financial Management - David Williams
Property - Brian Vance

Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

Outreach Leadership Team Member: Debby Speicher - yayasis@comcast.net
Fellowship Team Member: Joanne Strynick – jstrynick@yahoo.com

I have exciting news I want to get out about our Fall Festival. First, we are changing the name to OctoberFest! We will be having a big art & craft show. We will rent spots to other crafters, with the proceeds going to pay off the loan for the building. I encourage everyone to start making their "special" craft to sale! We are looking to having some dessert vendors' snow cones, cotton candy, and funnel cakes. We will be selling Brats & hotdogs, drinks, and of course our Pumpkin Patch will be in full swing! - Debby



Outreach Ministries is calling to all who have minimal or advanced sewing or craft skills....We'd like to bless others with our skills by making handmade items to bless those not as fortunate as us. Please join us in this discussion here at SOL on March 26th at 10 AM.

Financial Corner

Leadership Team Member: David Williams

Who Heard The Word

	<u>Church</u>	<u>SunSchool</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Feb 2	43	5	48
Feb 9	63	9	72
Feb 16	48	9	57
Feb 23	58	6	64

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Envelope Offerings	\$ 6,997.81	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,067.97
2/29 income int			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,997.81		
		<u>Designated Fund Balances</u>	
Food Pantry Income	\$ 557.85	Pumpkin Patch	\$ 1,818.82
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 493.02	VBS	\$ 200.00
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 4,007.20	Spring Fling/Fall Fest	\$ 790.55
		Fellowship Events	\$ 260.01
Bldg/Mortgage Balance	\$219,523.47	Call Committee	\$ 2,995.02
		BLDG Expansion	\$ 5,951.42

Property Team

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

Property team has started the clearing & cleaning around the pond, we hope to make it a beautiful & peaceful view as you look out the windows in the sanctuary, hopefully our new building will already in place by the time the news letter is out! There will be much to do to get it ready for use.

Ruth Circle (WELCA)

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

Our next meeting will be March 6th at 10am and everyone is welcome.

Blessings,
Dawn Martin

Worship & Music

Leadership Team Member: Vonda Miller



*"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 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**.

February Birthdays

- 6 Keira Hood
- 8 Maggie Spruill
- 16 Carol Payne
- 19 Lauren Higginbotham
- 23 Catherine (Mike's - keyboardist wife)
Spottswood
- 27 Barb Kirkwood
- 30 Herbert Roziers



February Anniversaries

- 15 Al & Debby Speicher
- 16 Gene & Vonda Miller
- 18 Shaun & Jessica Haynam



March Calendar

March 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 AM Church Service	2	3 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	4 9:00 AM Manna and Mercy Bible Study 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry 6:00 PM Lent soup and study	5	6 10:00 AM Ruth Circle	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 10:00 AM Church Service	9 Church office closed	10 Church office closed 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	11 Church office closed 9:00 AM Manna and Mercy Bible Study 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry 6:00 PM Lent soup and study 7:00 PM Praise Team music practice	12 Church office closed	13 Church office closed	14 11:00 AM Celebration of Life for Vicki Haugen
15 10:00 AM Church Service	16	17 Presidential Preference Primary Election	18 9:00 AM Manna and Mercy Bible Study 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry 6:00 PM Lent soup and study 7:00 PM Praise Team music practice	19	20	21
22 10:00 AM Church Service 11:00 AM Stuff the Eggs & potluck	23	24 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry	25 9:00 AM Manna and Mercy Bible Study 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry 6:00 PM Lent soup and study 7:00 PM Praise Team music practice	26 10:00 AM Sewing Club	27	28 Spring Fling
29 10:00 AM Church Service	30 6:00 PM Leadership Team Meeting	31 10:00 AM Community Food Pantry				

Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Loved Ones: Lauren Higginbotham, Maggie Spruill, Carol Payne, Eric Holt, Betty Jones, John Bostick, Jim Kitchen, Cathy M., Sandra Mullins, Donna Strysick, Gail Eubanks

Our Military members: Eric, Jeff, Nathan & Anthony

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

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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!