



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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September 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!

I feel as if we just took down the Christmas decorations—and it's already September! I'd ask where the time goes, but I already know. This year, March had 31 days, April had 30, May had 31...at least, that's the way it seems. I'm feeling so blessed because we're finally gathering together on Sunday mornings again. It would be an even greater blessing to see more of our faith family in person, but given the situation of the world we live in, I'm glad to see folks are making their own decisions about how to stay safe. God gave us brains and expects us to use them, and each of you knows what your priority must be right now.

We're tentatively talking about restarting our children's program soon. We have enough space to socially distance the youngsters that join us, and we know that it's as important for them to grow and mature in faith as it is for us "grown ups". We hope to see some of the younger generation soon—kids change so quickly I wonder if we will recognize them? So many things we had planned for the kids just never got off the ground this year. But there's always next year—and maybe no masks!! Wouldn't that be great? If you have young ones close, remember to thank God for their energy and their ability to cut through some of the craziness around them. Jesus says we can learn a lot from the little ones.

Someone suggested that maybe a Bible study class one evening a week might be a good idea—by Zoom! I admit I never even thought of that, since I only learned what Zoom is about March 25th. What do you think? Is that something you would like to see? And by asking that I mean "Would you commit to showing up by Zoom most weeks?" Everyone always thinks another Bible study or church service is a good idea, until it comes time to attend...so, what do you say—are you up for something a little daring?

Thanks to all of you who continue to support our Spirit of Life Food Pantry. As you probably know, the number of clients we are serving each week is through the roof, and we are praying that our new mobile building is wired, plumbed, and ready for use soon—we could sure use the extra space!! And thanks to a grant from our synod, we have a lovely check for \$4,000 to spend on heavy equipment for the Pantry. If you haven't been able to volunteer at the Food Pantry for a while, please let me issue a great big encouraging word to come back and help if you're able. The system is a bit different, but the end is the same—families drive away with healthy, nourishing food that they need so badly, and we at Spirit of Life feel humbled and blessed to give ourselves to God's work.

We have the Pumpkin Patch coming up in October, and then we'll be in holiday mode again. What a strange year this has been. Please remember to pray for grace among us to do God's will, God's way. I hope to see you soon...with my eyes, not just my memory! Take care and come home to Spirit of Life when you are able.

Blessings!!
Pastor Karen

President's Corner

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

Wow! Summer is behind us! Some schools are opening and the Florida heat is at its worst. Perhaps you are as grateful as I am for our afternoon showers to cool things down a bit.

Every week our worship service continues to see a few more members and guests. We continue to use masks, gloves and take temperatures when entering. We video record each service and viewing is available on our SOL FaceBook Page. We have seen over 100 hits weekly. What a joy to know others are sharing our worship service.

Please remember to continue your tithing as you are able. Our monthly bills are approximately \$9,400. If unable to attend Sunday, consider electronic or postal service for your weekly / monthly giving. Thank you.

The Pumpkins are arriving on October 10th, at 10 AM! We will be preparing guidelines for Pumpkin Patch activities. Debby and Vonda will be posting dates / times for Pumpkin Patch setup activities. Mark your calendars; I hope to see everyone help as you are able.

Blessings,
Al Speicher
Leadership Team President

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"

Got any plastic or paper bags?

Can you sit and divide larger quantities of food into smaller bags to be handed out?

Can you smile and give encouragement?

Can you hand a bag of food to someone in need?

GREAT! We need you! Please call Edith or Gary to volunteer.

Education / Youth

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

Sadly, we can make no plans for Sunday School. But, while we are abstaining from Children's Time due to COVID, here are two websites with thoughtful activities for children. Please take some time with your precious ones to find, print and discuss Christian ideals from these websites: steadfastfamily.com (toddler play through the Bible lessons) and housemixblog.com (search Bible to find intricate coloring pages for familiar phrases)

eCommunication

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

Are you getting emails for Spirit of Life? Is your email address current? Have you "joined" our Fave Book Page/Group? Please let me know if you are having difficulties. - Kristina

Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

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

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

As all fellowship activities are on hold for the time being we are just looking forward to the day when we can enjoy getting together as a group. I would like to have a BIG potluck as soon as it is possible. Other activities will follow but FOOD always brings out the best in all of us.

Yours in Christ,
JoAnn



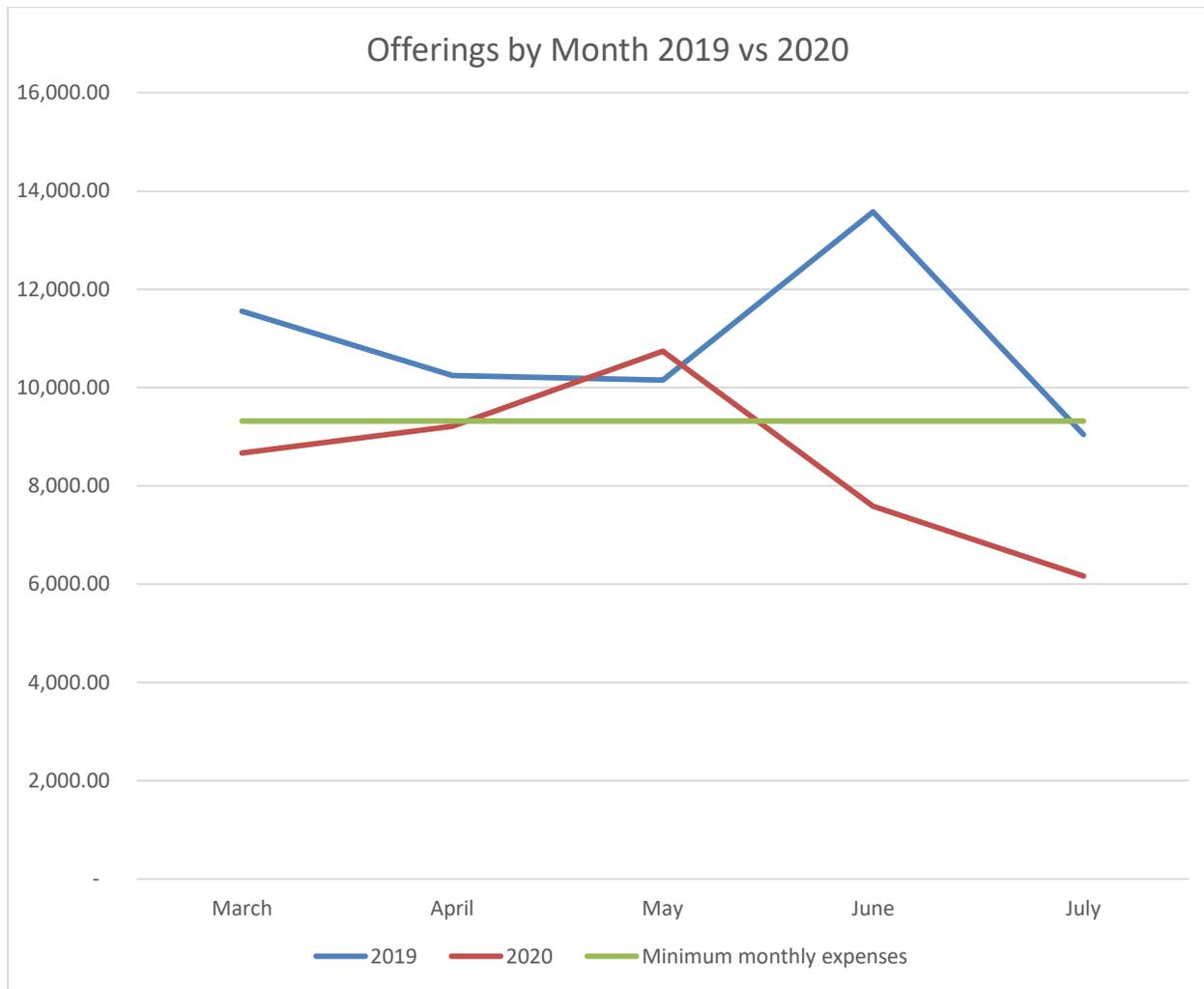
SATURDAY - OCTOBER 10TH - 10 A.M.

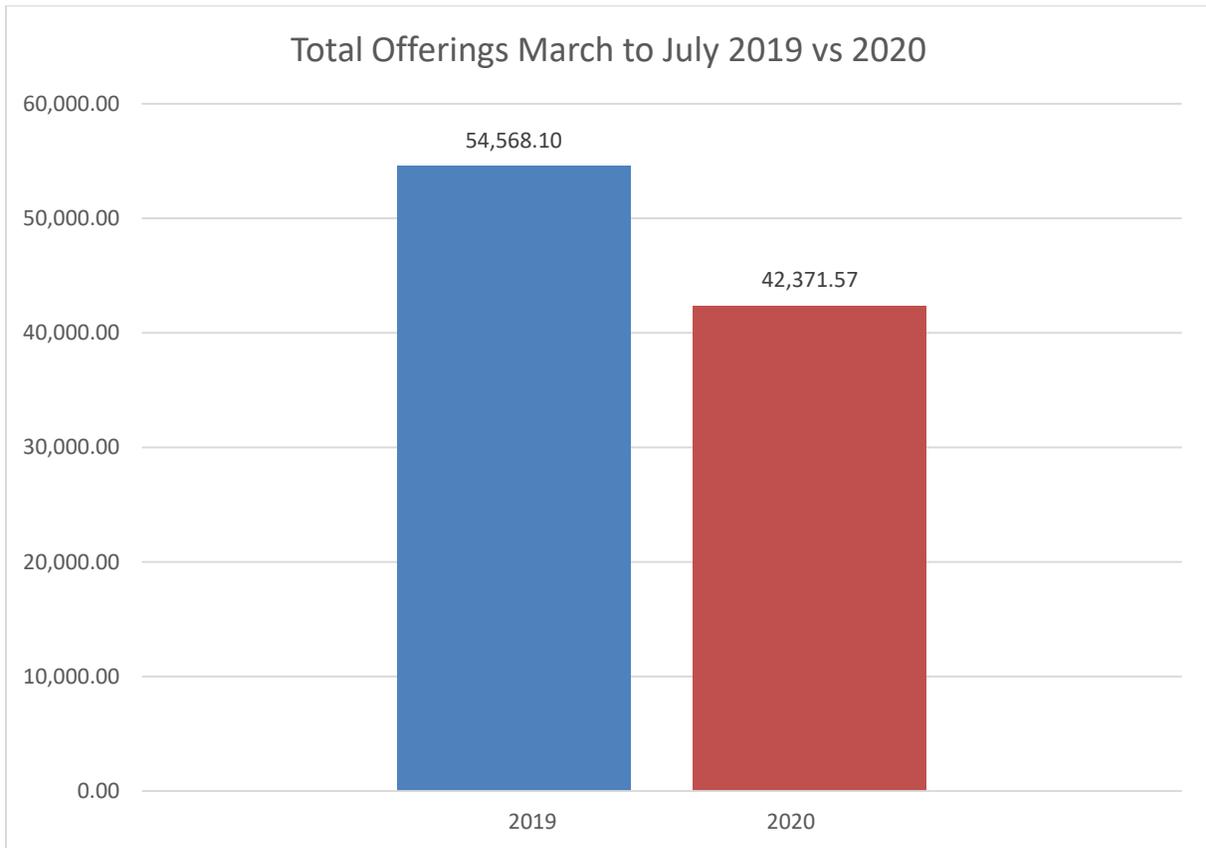
Please plan to come and help us unload. We will be receiving 3/4 of a semi truck load of pumpkins this year and need all the help we can get. Many hands make light work. This is a great opportunity for any youth to get their required volunteer hours and for all of us to be in fellowship together. Last year our sales were over \$12,000; in return we were able to retain 33.3 % of the total sales. This is our only fundraiser for the year and provides any or all support for our church projects. The pumpkins will be placed on pallets which will be a minimum of 6' apart. Since this is an open air venue and the possibility that some households will not be participating in door to door trick or treating; we anticipate that this will be one of our most successful Pumpkin Patches to date. The Pumpkin Patch will be open for business: Monday - Friday 3 - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 7 pm and Sunday 12 - 7 pm. If you have any suggestions, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to speak to Pastor K, Debby Speicher or Vonda.

Financial Corner

Leadership Team Member: David Williams

We realize that the COVID pandemic has impacted a lot of families in the area and our church is not immune. We were able to get some PPP money, which has helped, but that has been spent. Table 1 shows the monthly general offerings we had for 2019 and 2020, and the minimum monthly bills the church has each month. Table 2 shows the total general offerings comparing 2019 and 2020 for March through July. The situation is challenging and we are asking for your support.





FINANCIAL CORNER FOR AUGUST 2020

<u>Envelope Offerings (TIAA)</u>	\$ 7,483.29	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,059.76
8.31 interest			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 7,483.29	<u>Designated Fund Balances</u>	-
Food Pantry Income	\$ 190.00	Pumpkin Patch	\$ 1,818.82
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 226.22	VBS	\$ 200.00
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 8,014.59	Youth (CF)	\$ 480.02
		Youth Gathering (CF)	\$ 394.64
Mission Investment (mortgage)	\$ 242,759.27	Spring Fling/Fall Fest	\$ 650.64
		Fellowship Events	\$ 260.01
		Misc. Memorials (CF)	\$ 5,702.82
		Property Projects (CF)	\$ 3,800.63
Bldg Expansion (CF) BALANCE	\$ 5,044.66	(CF) Community First Credit Union	

Ruth Circle (WELCA)

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

Ruth Circle will be on sabbatical for the rest of the year but we will be helping where we are needed. Enjoy your vacation that God has given you!

Dawn Martin

Worship & Music

Leadership Team Member: Vonda Miller

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WHAT'S MISSING?

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The worship team has been making a diligent effort to keep our family connected while we were unable to be together at the church. On a weekly basis, we made the worship plan available via email or mailed to our members who are not electronically connected.

We opened our doors for worship July 12th and are together once more. We have spruced up the narthex, minimized hard surfaces and continue to ensure all are cleaned & disinfected before and after worship. For your safety, we are requiring members to have their temperature taken at the door (100 or above sorry no entry). Individual communion sets, masks & gloves are being provided and required. The sanctuary has been set up according to CDC social distancing recommendations. Currently, we are not sharing the peace, having bible study, nursery, or children's church. The children are worshiping in the sanctuary as we await the lessening of restrictions.

The offerings are being placed in the trays at the exit doors. If you have not been to church to submit your offerings, you can do so by mailing in your check, make a one-time or reoccurring payment from your financial institution bill pay program to Spirit of Life Lutheran Church. We bank with TIAA, account#0379375801, routing # 063092110. If you'd like to make a donation online, please use the following link: <https://spiriitoflifeofferings.square.site/>.

If you or any of your loved ones are feeling anxious, lonely or just need someone to talk to please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Karen directly at 231-343-4426 or karen@biggerstaff.pro.

We continue to strive to give everyone a meaningful and joyful worship experience. We are open for improvements and welcome your compliments, comments, and suggestions.

WELCOME *Home*

Your Worship Team

<u>September Birthdays</u>		<u>September Anniversaries</u>	
12	James Williams	26	Jeff & Kassandra DeLaRosa
17	Rita Hays		
19	Karen Beaumont		
20	Milo Polichnia		
22	Grace Paradise		
23	Ashley Barnes		
25	David Williams		
28	Dawn Martin		

Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Loved Ones: Ronald Barnes, Sr., Cathy Edwards, Dorothy Cook, Joann Wiseman, Louis Reid, Ellen Cross, Fred Covalt (Kristina Aldred father), Edith Brisson, Betty Mallard & her daughter Amanda Bennett, Clyde Raines and Roger Boggs, Kara Wenk (Maggie & Mike Spruill DIL) , Moorman & Hanson families

Our Military Members: Jeff, Nathan & Anthony

Chronic Prayers: Chris Bock (Claudia Moreash brother), Katherine Thomas, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Larissa Hinman, Cathy, Donna Strysick, Cathy M, Jimmy & Faye Carter, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle father, Bob's F-I-L), Wayne Hanna (Tammy Martins father), Larry and Terri Joiner, Barbara Kirkwood, Sandra Mullins

WE CAN'T PRAY FOR WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

PLEASE, PLEASE BELIEVE WE CARE AND WANT TO LIFT YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES UP IN PRAYER.

You can share your requests on Sunday before the announcements, call, text or email the Pastor and/or the church office.

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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!