



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
2636 New Berlin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32226
904-757-9114
Email: chur5900@bellsouth.net

October 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!

Dear Faith Family,

The pumpkins are coming! The pumpkins are coming! And so, they tell me, is Autumn...But, of course, we can't tell that—we live in Florida! At any rate, as October begins, I am heaving a sigh of relief. We've made it through the Summer of Panic. Is it just me, or did you also feel as if the months of April, May, and June would never end? I am so grateful and feel so blessed that our congregational family has come this far without too many crises—health or otherwise.

God has been good to us! We've been gifted with continuous support for the Food Pantry, both in groceries and in volunteers. Our good friends in Christ at Mandarin Lutheran Church are saving bags for us (which cuts down on our overhead, as bags are expensive!), and they've also sent us pounds and pounds of dry pasta and numerous jars of pasta sauce. It helps especially as food quantities are going down at the distribution centers. There are just so very many hungry folks right now, and production has been slowed—or stopped—due to the Covid-19 restrictions. It takes all of us to do God's work, and you are certainly doing your part.

We've been worshipping in our sanctuary now for 11 Sundays, and it's been so good to be together again. I read an article about a study that the CDC did which showed that people who go out for dinner to a restaurant have shown a **42% increase** in the chance of getting Corona virus...BUT there's been **no** increase in the virus among folks who go to their place of worship regularly! I ADMIT, IT MAKES ME SMILE, BECAUSE I COULD HAVE TOLD THEM (FOR FREE) THAT WORSHIP INCREASES OUR CHANCE OF A HEALTHY LIFE. But they didn't ask me. I do believe that if you are going anywhere outside your homes, coming to worship at Spirit of Life on Sunday should be very high on your list of places to go—say, right at the top of the list!

We will soon be resuming our Christian Education program, so that our youth and small ones have a chance to increase their knowledge of the Lord and the blessings Jesus died to give to us. Our nursery has been cleaned and aired, and we are finalizing details—and waiting for all of our young ones to return on a regular basis. Grown-ups, your children can not come to worship on their own—they are too young to drive. So it's time for you to get back into the habit of bringing them with you to church. We are still at the same place: 2636 New Berlin Road, and we still meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. We're looking forward to the day when we can restart our music program. Limited music and singing during this pandemic has been a real hardship, especially to us Lutheran Christians, since we value music so much.

And as to the pumpkins I mentioned? Well, they'll arrive on Saturday, October 10 @ 10am, and we can use your help to "welcome" them to Jacksonville. Last year we formed a long line and passed pumpkins from hand to hand to unload the truck. There's no reason why we can't do the same this year! We'll be outside in God's clean air, and we can wear masks (and gloves, should you feel it's necessary). We don't have to breathe down one another's' necks to unload, and we have a good time while we do it. The Pumpkin Patch is the only congregational fund-raiser we have, so it will be a tremendous help to all of us if you make plans to come, work, and laugh together. Remember, laughter is infectious—but in a good way.

Whatever decisions you make about how to move about—or not—during this time, please remember to thank, praise, and bless God for all the abundant good things we have been given. Blessings to you all!

Blessings!!
Pastor Karen

President's Corner

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

Hello Congregation and welcome fall weather.

October may be our big transition month.

The State of Florida has removed the COVID19 restrictions. However, we all need to continue practicing safety precautions, (masks, social distancing, etc.). Blessings to those who can return to work.

Our once a year Outreach / Fund Raiser, '**The Pumpkin Patch**' is beginning. Our Pumpkins are coming on the 10th. We will need volunteers for setting up, unloading and manning the Patch. Please check your calendars for your availability. If you have questions, please see Vonda or Debby.

The permits for the Modular Building are issued and work will be beginning in a few days. Our dreams for expansion are beginning to be realized. Please keep this growth of our church in your thoughts and prayers.

Our Sunday service attendance continues to grow. We will continue to provide a clean and safe environment to worship. Members will continue to use masks, gloves and take temperatures when entering. Each Sunday our service is recorded and posted on our SOL FaceBook page.

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. Your Leadership Team is regularly evaluating opportunities to save on monthly expenses.

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"

It seems like we are breaking new records each week.

We have been doing a great job of getting them through the line because of our volunteers. we could always use you in some way to assist in doing God's work.

Thank you to all who have been so faithful in coming and putting your best effort in. So many in need are so grateful that we are here.

Keep up the good work. God is Good and is always near.

Got any plastic or paper bags? Canned meats, vegetables and fruit are badly needed. There will be a box placed in the Narthex for your donations.

We can always use volunteers if only for a few hours on Monday, Tuesday and or Wednesday. Someone is here to give you support from 8:30am on.

Education / Youth

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

Education and Youth has very little to report, as the congregation moves slowly through COVID restrictions. We are pleased to offer services for children on a limited basis while we transition through several changes. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

Recent contact with Oceanway Elementary indicates that it is possible to offer the Angel Tree Project to their neediest students. I need to know if Spirit of Life feels that they can offer this program this year. Please let me know if you all want to do this through notes, messages (814-932-0203) texts, email (anitalvance@gmail.com) sometime this week. I will proceed with plans to cancel or to continue, as per your responses. Again, thank you for your continuing support.

eCommunication

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

It's Fall. Personally, it is my favorite time of year. I do want to mention that everyone tries very hard to get our Services placed on FaceBook. Since we are novices and have limited equipment, sometimes this just doesn't work out. If you have any experience in this area or equipment that can be loaned, please contact us.

Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

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

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



The pumpkins will be delivered **October 10th at 10 AM**. We will be receiving 3/4 of a semi-truck of pumpkins. **Many hands make light work. For example, Jesus himself allowed Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross after Him.** This is a great opportunity to fellowship with each other. Not going to lie to ya, it is not an easy task but the comradeship between us makes you quickly forget the task at hand. We need all hands-on deck.

Volunteers are needed to operate the patch, Monday – Friday 3 - 7pm, Saturdays 10 – 7 pm and after church on Sunday 12 – 7 pm. No experience, no problem! The signup sheet is on the Narthex bulletin board. It is a great community outreach opportunity. This is the only fundraiser that the church has all year. Financially, it is especially important! Last year we sold over \$12,000. Please help make a difference.

Our agreement with the Pumpkin Patch is as follows:

0-\$7000 = 25%

\$7000-\$9000 = 30%

\$9K – 20K = 33.3%

Come help us make this the best sales year ever!

Thank you!

Vonda and Debby S.

Financial Corner

Leadership Team Member: David Williams

ATTENDANCE

SEP 6	30
SEPT 13	22
SEPT 20	30
SEPT 27	31

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

<u>Envelope Offerings (TIAA)</u>	\$ 5,414.70	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 9,338.64</u>
Property Project Fund xfer	\$ 1,200.00		
Pumpkin Patch Fund xfer	\$ 1,000.00	<u>Designated Fund Balances</u>	-
Food Pantry xfer to pay utilities	\$ 544.32	Pumpkin Patch	\$ 818.82
9.30 interest		VBS	\$ 200.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 8,159.02</u>	Youth (CF)	\$ 480.02
Food Pantry Income	\$ 605.00	Youth Gathering (CF)	\$ 394.64
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 614.32	Spring Fling/Fall Fest	\$ 650.64
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 8,005.27	Fellowship Events	\$ 260.01
		Misc. Memorials (CF)	\$ 5,702.82
		Property Projects (CF)	\$ 2,600.63
<u>BALANCES</u>			
Mission Investment (mortgage)	\$ 241,471.77		
Bldg Expansion (CF)	\$ 30,044.66	(CF) Community First Credit Union	

Please don't forget your offering. You can mail it. You can drop it off. You can also make your offering electronically.

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

As expected, 2020 worship costs have increased to meet the COVID standards as we continue to conform to outlined standards. This month we had to purchase additional gloves and individually wrapped communion sets.

We want to invite our neighbors to worship and visit the patch, so we've designed a door hanger to invite our neighbors to worship, our Food Pantry, Boys Scouts and Pumpkin Patch. These can be placed non-invasively on your neighbor's doorknobs. This is a great evangelistic opportunity! If this is something, you're willing to do, please see Vonda or Pastor K to share in this mission field.

Sunday worship attendance continues to average 25. Our biggest number to date is 30. Within the past month, Pastor reached out to members that have not returned and she continues to visit and keep in contact with our shut ins. If you another member or loved one in need of pastoral care, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor K.

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

We look forward to seeing your smiling face on Sunday. Until then, may peace be with you.
Your Worship Team

<u>October Birthdays</u>		<u>October Anniversaries</u>	
1	Winnie Carlson		
2	Edith Brisson		
6	Ginger Clemons		
8	Pat Barron		
8	Gene Miller		
16	Margaret Sloan		
17	Kristina Aldred		
21	Cathy Barnes		
21	Bri Polichnia		
25	Marilyn Hirsch		
26	Casey Carlson		
28	Heidi Carlson		
28	Eileen Phelps	11	Steve & Casey Carlson



Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Loved Ones: John Tucker, June & John Hanson, Richard, Joann Wiseman, Clyde Raines, Roger Boggs, Our U.S. Leaders

Our Military members: Jeff, Nathan & Anthony

Chronic Prayers: Rita Hays, Ronald Barnes, Sr., Betty Mallard, Amanda Bennett, Cathy Edwards, Dorothy Cook, Kara Wenk (Mike & Maggie Spruill's DIL), Fred Covalt (Kristina Aldred's father), Louis Reid, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray's Mom, Hood family's grandmother & great), Larissa Hinman, Cathy, Donna Stryck, Cathy M, Jimmy & Faye Carter, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill's sister), Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle's father, Bob's F-I-L), Wayne Hanna (Tammy Martin's father), 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.

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

Community, Faith and Service



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!