



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL  
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December 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!

“Oh, come, all ye faithful...” We sang those words today in worship. This first Sunday in Advent of a most troublesome and mysterious year, what do you think of when you hear that familiar tune? Do you remember Advent and Christmas seasons from years gone by? Do you long for the warmth and ease that those times provided—and wonder where in the world we go today to get those lovely feelings back?

We often think of the past with wistfulness and longing, as if all our yesterdays were glory days, and all our todays are so much dreary going-through-the-motions. But it's not true, you know. The past was not always lovely, and the present—while there are some pretty grim things happening—isn't all just dust and ashes. Advent can train us to look up with joy instead of longing, and to remain faithful, as the beloved Christmas carol says.

Here at Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, we're focused on pointing out how good and holy our days are right now, and how much there is that's positive and filled with grace. We have some really good things planned for Advent and the Christmas season, and it doesn't matter that we can't have every bit of tinsel and decoration we had in the past. It doesn't matter (much) that we are s-t-i-l-l wearing masks and gloves in our sanctuary. God is with us, in us, and around us. And we will praise God's name together and lift up our hearts with joy because we are guaranteed the absolutely best future there has ever been. Just remember that your presence is the “present” we have been waiting for, and get yourself back to worship with us as soon as the Holy Spirit tells you the time is right. In the meantime, remember to pray for us, and with us, as we pray for you! Remember that our mission and our programs depend on you for their maximum effectiveness. Remember most of all that God loves you, and we love you, too.

Usually I highlight some of the upcoming events in my newsletter article, but this month I'm going to let the Leadership Team members do that in their own ways. We do have plenty going on, and I would hate to miss any important detail. We've been seeing some dear members of our faith family return, and that alone is worth donning a mask and coming to join us—at a socially-acceptable distance, of course!

We hope you join us on our journey to the manger to meet the Christ child. There's room for all here!

Blessings!!  
Pastor Karen

## President's Corner

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

Blessings, Peace and Grace to everyone during this wonderful season to celebrate Christ's birth. Last December, I would have never guessed that we would have to wear masks to worship this December. How about you? Masks still improve my singing. I can always say the 'mask' makes my voice sound bad...

This Sunday we were able to receive communion from the pastor and assistant as we did last year. What a nice way to welcome in the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

Spirit of Life continues to post our Sunday service on our Facebook page for those 'shut in', and I hope more people will continue to join us in person each Sunday. Please spread the word that you can worship with us either virtually or in person.

There are quite a few new homes being built and occupied in our community. Letting new neighbors know that our church is open to all and sharing the good news is very important. Bri and Debby need your help to post 'Bandit' signs in these new neighborhoods. Please see Debby for details. A church work day is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please call Debby (904-318-0964) for what you can do to help.

Our Stewardship program is underway. Please send your pledge cards promptly. We will be preparing our 2021 budget according what has been identified and planed for income. Thank you. Thank you for your prayers and cards on the loss of my mother, Lois Speicher. She passed quietly in her sleep while at a Hospice facility.

We were all happy and sad to say good by to Edith Brisson heading north to reside with her family in New Jersey. We also wish Anita and Brian Vance a happy and sad farewell as they move to Fleming Island, Florida.

Blessings,  
Al Speicher  
Leadership Team President

# Community Food Pantry and Garden

Leadership Team Member: Gary Strynick

FOOD PANTRY

NOVEMBER 2020

Month of November:

We only did 3 weeks this month.

We were closed for voting the first week of month.

Total number of clients thru our pantry was about—1350.

Breaking that down further gives a better idea of how many people we are really helping.

The total number of people in those households is 3972.

Of those 1224 were over 60 years old.

Number of children in those households is 1202.

The number of disabled people is 748.

So as we can see we are helping more than just what our bag count shows.

*Gary Strynick*

## eCommunication

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

Do you know about Spirit of Life's new Craft Fair on FaceBook? It's a great place to find things for those on your Christmas list and also support our church. 100% of the proceeds go to SOL.

Please notice that everyone on our eBlast list should be receiving the weekly Advent message.

### Important Dates:

Dec 15 10 am - 12 pm Christmas decoration giveaway

December 17 - Christmas caroling outreach to community at SOL 4 - 6 pm

Christmas Eve Service 7pm - Outside

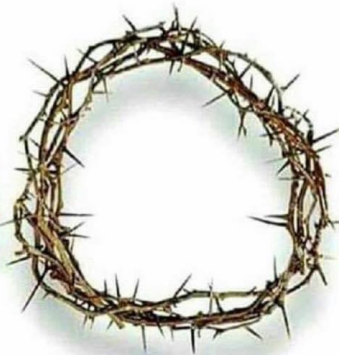
Dec 28 - next LT meeting

Jan 24, 2021 Annual Congregation Meeting

**'TIS THE  
SEASON**



**'TIS THE  
REASON**



May your Christmas be filled with Christ's love! Merry Christmas!

-Kristina

## Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

**Outreach Leadership Team Member: Vacant**

**Fellowship Team Member: JoAnn Strynick – jstrynick@yahoo.com**

Outreach is having a Christmas Decoration Give Away on Dec. 15, we have been very blessed with so many donating their Christmas decorations they no longer use, Also we have planned a "Grab Bag/ Mystery gift during this time,. The bags will be \$1.00 each, we have collected some really nice gifts thanks to the congregation. We are looking to have a garage sale in February so hold on some of those items that would you may want to donate. A big thank you to Kathy Barnes for taken on the Angel Tree,

## Financial Corner

**Leadership Team Member: David Williams dwilliamsf@gmail.com**

### ATTENDANCE

NOV 1	32
NOV 8	35
NOV 15	34
NOV 22	31
NOV 29	26

### FINANCIAL CORNER FOR NOVEMBER 2020

<u>Envelope Offerings (TIAA)</u>		<u>Total Expenses</u>	
Offerings	\$ 9,740.85	<b><u>9666.43</u></b>	-
craft fair	\$ 60.00		-
33.3% pumpkin sales	4346.59	<b><u>Designated Fund Balances</u></b>	-
patch donations	\$ 448.55	Pumpkin Patch	\$ 537.21
11/30 interest	\$ 1.68	VBS	\$ 200.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 14,597.67</b>	Youth (CF)	\$ 480.02
Food Pantry Income	\$ 698.00	Youth Gathering (CF)	\$ 394.64
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 533.32	Spring Fling/Fall Fest	\$ 650.64
<b>Food Pantry Balance</b>	<b>\$ 7,456.25</b>	Fellowship Events	\$ 260.01
		Misc. Memorials (CF)	\$ 5,702.82
		Property Projects (CF)	\$ 2,600.63
<b><u>BALANCES</u></b>			
<b>Mission Investment (mortgage)</b>	<b>\$ 241,471.77</b>		
<b>Bldg Expansion (CF)</b>	<b>\$ 30,044.66</b>	(CF) Community First Credit Union	

## Property

**Leadership Team Member: Debbie Speicher yayasis@comcast.net**

We continue to keep our churching looking nice, we have been spreading mulch, weed eating, pressure washing and changing light bulbs in the parking lot, which is not a easy task, I would like everyone to know that Bob Pollet has always been so helpful with this task, he always makes time to come over with his bucket truck to change these bulbs. We are blessed and thankful to Richard Crowley for keeping the yard mowed.

There are always jobs that need to be done around the church, if you have some time & would like to help please reach out to me! We have been blessed with a group called Set Free by the Sea, they have provided us with help at the food pantry as well as projects around the church.

## 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

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
1 Bob Masculine	5 Russell & Kristina Aldred
5 Rusty Elwood	19 Roland & Pastor Biggerstaff
7 Todd Burrell	
10 Tammy Martin	
12 Mary Williams	
15 Brenda Murray	
16 Diane Crawley	
19 Claudia Moreash	
20 Julie Roziers	
25 Our Lord & Savior / JESUS	
25 Al Speicher	
27 Fred Wenk	



## Call to Care (Prayer List)

**Our Loved Ones:** Peggy(Junes SIL), Recent passing of Barb Kirkwood; her family and loved ones, Jim, Wanda Harmon, Sandy Miller, Scott Motter, Crystal, Donna Strysick, Barb, Jim, Homer Masculine, Ruth Vega (Kassi Delarosa mother), Homer Masculine

**Our Military members:** Jeff, Nathan & Anthony

**Chronic Prayers:** Mary Elwood, Steve Eunice, June and John Hanson, Rita Hays, Ronald Barnes, Sr., Betty Mallard, Amanda Bennett, Cathy Edwards, Dorothy Cook, Fred Covalt (Kristina Aldred father), Bri Polichnia, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Larissa Hinman, Cathy, Cathy M, Jimmy & Faye Carter, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Dan Fisher (Michele Hoyle father, Bob's F-I-L), 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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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!