



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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February 2021

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!

Welcome to Spring, Florida-style! Never, ever, in the northern states do we speak of Spring this early in the year. But here in Florida, we frequently receive the gracious gift of some 70-degree days even in January and February. And it's a good thing, too, because our regular Spring activities—Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent—come early this year.

Transfiguration Sunday is February 14. Yes, that's also Valentine's Day, and in a way that's particularly appropriate. The day that is supposed to signify all loving things is also a day when we see some of Jesus' most loving actions. At the Transfiguration, Jesus gave His disciples a preview of the coming glory awaiting the citizens of God's Kingdom. We can't understand the true depths of Jesus' love until we understand the height of His majesty. Like those first disciples, all we can do is stand amazed, and wonder what our Lord will do next! For love like His, all we can say is thanks be to God.

Ash Wednesday will be February 17. On that day we plan (pandemic permitting) to gather to remember that Jesus not only lived for us, He also died for us. While we want to rush toward Easter and forget all the stress, strain, and sorrow of Jesus' sacrifices, we are reminded to proceed s-l-o-w-l-y toward the celebration of the resurrection, attempting to ponder deeply the extreme to which He was willing to go for us. It was slow, it was often filled with pain, and if we rush to Easter too quickly, we tend to think that Jesus is only about bunnies, and sun, and new clothes.

That's the reason why we call this season LENT. Lent in Latin means "slowly", as in "slow down and really let this all sink in". No, we are not to pretend some deep sorrow we don't feel. No, we are not supposed to be content to observe Lent by giving up chocolate or coffee for 40 days (although the idea isn't a bad one). Instead, during Lent we are invited to slow down and really consider how we can deepen our relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and indeed with all God's people. Easter is not a day, it's a way of life, and Lent can help us understand and remember just how our Savior gave us the gift of life.

During Lent this year we will be gathering on Wednesday evenings to do some study, some talking, and some work with our hands—as in making crafts. Doing all three helps us remember and care more about exactly how and why we love Jesus—and hopefully each other—so much. Please make some time in your busy schedule to attend our Lenten gatherings. It might make all the difference in someone's life—maybe even yours!! Blessings!

Pastor Karen

eCommunication

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

Backups?

There are so many little things around our church that don't "magically" happen. As I found out this week, sometimes there is a need for a backup person in case the main person is unable to do the job. Sometimes there even needs to be a backup to the backup person.

What jobs do you do for our church? Do you have a backup? No matter how large or small the job, it needs to be done. Please reach out and get a backup. If you need help, contact someone on the Leadership Team, Vonda, or the Pastor.

Peace,
Kristina

NIFTY at "90"

Beverly Eckes was born February 23, 1931 in Hawley, PA. She has been a resident of Florida since 1978 and moved to Callahan; God's county in 1998. She has been blessed with 3 children, 3 grandchildren and 5 great children. She continues to be active with WELCA here at Spirit of Life Lutheran Church. She can be found almost every Tuesday at our Food Pantry doing God's work and bagging food to handout or volunteering and doing whatever is needed. So, don't forget to wish Bev a HUGE Happy Birthday this month when you see her.

Lovingly submitted,
Her church family

Community Food Pantry and Garden

Leadership Team Member: Gary Strynick - jstrynick@yahoo.com

FOOD PANTRY

January 31, 2021

Month of January

We have reached the end of the month of January. Was the first month of doing just 1 day each week.

With the food pantry only operating 1 day a week now, we have had some reduction in numbers. I am thinking that may not last long.

Total number of bags handed out thru our pantry has been 1567 this month.

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 4642.

Of those 1642 were over 60 years old.

Number of children in those households is 1459.

The number of disabled people is 914.

This month we have had 164 new clients come thru.

We have not had any problems with delivery's and looks like we will be alright till march.

We have been receiving food donations that has allowed us to provide a little extra for those whom we serve, which helps greatly with our ministry of helping those in need.

Remember our task at the food pantry and the church is to feed the lambs which at times is not only with food.

Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

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

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

Since we are unable to gather in fellowship as we would like to we are looking forward to the time when we can. Hopefully in the near future we can plan a potluck that will bring us all back together.

So until then God Bless and keep us all in his care.

Yours in Christ,
JoAnn

Outreach is looking forward to having a garage sale sometime in March or April. We will be taking donations so if you could drop them off on a Tuesday or bring them Sunday that would be good.

One of the other things that the Outreach is looking to do in the future is create a clothes closet that will operate during the hours of the Food Pantry. We would like to thank all who helped make a difference in our community!

Debby

Financial Corner

Leadership Team Member: Peggy Williams - pegsha1@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE

JAN 3	27
JAN 10	31
JAN 17	31
JAN 24	31
JAN 31	34

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR JANUARY 2021	
Envelope Offerings (TIAA)	
Offerings	\$ 7,785.30
COJ Bldg usage (Aug&Nov'20)	\$ 400.00
TOTAL Income	\$ 8,185.30
TOTAL Expenses	\$ 10,089.19
Jan operating carryover balance	\$ 1699.26
Food Pantry Income (420 designated for delivery fees)	\$ 542.00
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 1,863.96
Food Pantry Balance	\$ 6,223.14
BALANCES	
Mission Investment (mortgage)	\$ 241,471.77
Bldg Expansion (CF)	\$ 29,971.34

Property

Leadership Team Member: Dan Nichols - r.daneel.nichols@gmail.com

Thank you Dan for volunteering to lead our Property Team!

Ruth Circle (WELCA)

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

We are still waiting for the proper time to meet in the church and are hoping we can do so in March or April. We will gather the "Thank Offerings" at the time we meet. The "Thank Offering" program of The Women of the ELCA (WELCA), gathers coins in jars or small containers at home. The coins are collected once a year and then the dollar amount is sent to the Synodical Treasurer. These offerings are combined with other WELCA groups' Thank Offerings around the United States and are used to support grants, scholarships, resources on many topics, Bible studies, raising up healthy women and girls, ELCA World Hunger, ELCE Malaria Campaign, and other projects.


We will be starting a new project of "Collecting new and gently used children's books". They will become part of the "Free Lending Library" by our church garden.

God's Blessings on All,
Dawn Martin

Worship & Music

Leadership Team Member: Vonda Miller - ontrey64@gmail.com

We hope to see you at worship soon. Nothing says love and grace more than our thoughts, hopes, and prayers when we are able to get “2gather”. We regularly sanitize our facility, and we wear masks and some of us wear gloves. You are certainly safer and less likely to “catch” anything at worship than you are almost anywhere else in town these days. Unless, of course, you catch a deep, lasting love of God and God’s people. Come join us in person when you can, or catch up with us on-line.

<u>Birthdays</u>		<u>Anniversaries</u>	
1	Rylie Barnes	16	Bob & Michele Hoyle
2	Shirley Fields	17	Mike & Catherine Spottswood
15	Jon Moorman	24	Ron & Patty Wise
23	Beverly Eckes		
23	Ron Wise		
24	Bob Hoyle		
26	McKenna Wissing		
27	Trey Miller		

Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Loved Ones: Judd, Fred, Lori and Bryan

Our Military members: Branden, Jeff, Nathan & Anthony

Chronic Prayers: Mary Elwood, Steve Eunice, June and John Hanson (Moorman family members), Rita Hays, Betty Mallard, Amanda Bennett, Cathy Edwards, Dorothy Cook, 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), Terri Joiner, Sandra Mullins, Ruth Vega (Kassi Delarosa mother),

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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!