



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
2636 New Berlin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32226
904-757-9114
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April 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!

What a joy it has been to watch our congregation slowly return to in-person worship! One year ago, our first "video" worship was on Palm Sunday. Back then, all things Covid were new and very scary. Now, although the idea of Covid is still unsettling, we know that it's a manageable type of concern.

I'm sure all of us have learned a lot of things during the "pandemic". Speaking for myself, this last year has taught me:

1. That I had grown too used to having a comfy, middle-American life. Now I am more aware each day of just how many gracious blessings God bestows on me.
2. When folks don't get to worship in person regularly, many don't forget the congregation still has bills to pay and services to offer to believers.
3. Some people would remember to send in their tithes and offerings like clockwork even if they were unable to come to church for a year or more! In fact, some folks who are no longer members send regular donations to help the church grow.
4. Preaching in a (nearly) empty sanctuary while being filmed is NOT the same as seeing your dear faces, even with masks.
5. Watching the worship service I just filmed in the (nearly) empty sanctuary can make me crazy.
6. I CAN do Zoom meetings! I CAN print two-sided copies! I CAN change a printer cartridge!
7. I can NOT post every day on social media, no matter who tries to encourage me.
8. People still love to get cards and letters, even in this "instant" age.

9. We have gone far too long without a regular adult Bible study class.

And of course, I've learned many other things. So, I'm sure, have you. Yet I can bet that, for most of us, there's still nothing quite like sharing the peace and love of the Lord together. We've always known that there's light at the end of the tunnel, we just didn't always realize so clearly that the Light is Jesus, shared up close and personal with one another in our own dear sanctuary.

This week is Easter. Even though we won't be able (yet) to have flowers and lots of songs sung loudly to Mike's wonderfully jazzy tunes, we will greet our Risen Lord with all the amazement, joy, and (yes, we admit it) relief. Sing, little church. The night is nearly past, the Son is rising, and better times are ahead as we move forward! Blessings to you all—and I hope and pray you join us in person or on Facebook.

Peace

Pastor Karen

President's Corner

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

There are churches and congregations in parts of the US that continue to have severe COVID-19 'lock down's'. At SOL, I am grateful to be able to take communion at the altar. It feels strange to have to hold my mask hanging on my fingers as I receive the elements. I ask everyone to take a moment and pray for all congregations; our very survival as Christians, is at stake.

Your Pastor and Congregational Council are preparing for our next Congregational Meeting. Many of the items on the agenda have already been seen. I believe we will have a quorum this time, and be able to 'officially' proceed with our 2021 plans. If you have comments or questions, please see Pastor Karen or Al Speicher.

Thank you for your increased offerings so we may meet our financial obligations.

Please remember to bring your spring closet cleaning items to the Church for our Spring Clothes Give-a-Way. Please contact Debby Speicher for details.

Blessings, peace and grace to everyone,
Al Speicher

Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

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

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

We are planning a pancake breakfast for Easter Sunday. Come and join us.

We have partnered with Ruth Circle for the installation luncheon for Gary. Come and celebrate this special day with us.

I have been in contact with the Jacksonville Shrimp and more details will be coming in the near future. If anyone has any ideas please let me know.

Yours in Christ
JoAnn

Outreach still wants to have a Garage Sale this month but we really need items to sale. Donations can be brought to church before Service or contact Debby for another time. We also need help to sort items and getting ready for the Sale. Please let Debby know if you can help sorting or during the Sale itself.

Debby

Financial Corner

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

<u>Designated Fund Balances</u>	
<u>MARCH 2021</u>	
Fellowship Events	260.01
Misc. Memorials (CF)	5,707.62
Pumpkin Patch	537.21
Property Projects (CF)	2,604.77
Spring Fling/Fall Fest	650.64
VBS	200.00
Youth (CF)	522.37
Youth Gathering (CF)	394.92
Dhcking-Speical Purpose (CF)	4,153.74

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR MARCH 2021	
Envelope Offerings (TIAA)	\$ 8,460.45
Food Pantry xfer for JEA bill	\$ 405.34
Stryck Installation	\$ 15.00
CF funds xfer	\$ 2,825.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 11,705.79
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,983.00
Feb operating carryover BALANCE	\$ 3,966.51
Food Pantry Income	\$ 303.00
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 755.08
Food Pantry BALANCE	\$ 6,057.50
<u>BALANCES</u>	
Mission Investment (mortgage)	\$ 241,471.77
Bldg Expansion (MIF)	\$ 23,338.34
Bldg Expansion (CF)	\$ 4,972.59
Bldg Expansion TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 28,310.93
Bldg Expansion expenses \$55.60 SW paint & supplies	\$ 55.60

Worship & Music

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

In this strange world of masks and distance, sometimes we lose sight of the personal touch that God wants us to have for one another. This year, instead of a strange 6-foot-apart meal, Vonda suggested a Bible study. We could be safely distanced, she pointed out, and still gather "closely" together.

We began each of the five studies with some safe snacks because food is one sure way to a Lutheran Christian's heart. Each week we studied a different subject with a look at:

WHAT the subject is (including definitions and other more personal viewpoints);

WHY the subject is important to our Christian lives;

WHERE to find mention of the subject in God's word; and

HOW the subject enriches our walk and our testimony.

We studied Faith, Grace, Hope, Blessings, and Love, since they are the primary gifts God gives us as we follow Jesus.

Vonda, Debby Speicher, Gary Strynick, and Pastor Karen took turns leading the group, and what a fine job our siblings in Christ did! We grew in our knowledge of scripture, in our understanding of each other, and in our awe at our majestic Lord and Savior.

We also got a small magnetic wooden slat each week with the subject written on it. At the end, it formed a cross, with a heart of love in the middle, perfect for a place on the fridge, to remind us of our loving God. The final evening we each received a Golden Ticket scratch-off for a secret treasure.

We appreciated the study so much that we are considering having a Bible study once a month to continue our growth! Perhaps you will join us, and be blessed to gather together!

JOIN IN OUR JOYFUL CELEBRATION

as

Gary Strynick

is commissioned

to serve Our Lord

as our

Synod Parish Deacon

at

Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

2636 New Berlin Road

Jacksonville FL 32226

On Sunday, April 11, 2021

at 10:00a.m. during our worship service.

Refreshments following in our narthex

Masks and gloves will be worn and social distancing
will be observed



ATTENDANCE

MARCH 2021

7th 36
14th 30
21st 24
28th 33

<u>Birthdays</u>		<u>Anniversaries</u>	
1	Bob Schneck	9	Mary & Rusty Elwood
1	Nathan Polichnia	13	David & Peggy Williams
3	Silas Jones		
3	Mike Spruill		
4	Brian Vance		
5	Megan Vickery		
11	Ellie Moorman		
14	Pete Moreash		
20	Pastor Karen Biggerstaff		
24	Delores Miller		
27	June Berry		
28	Jen Nichols		
28	Steve Carlson		
28	Jeff DeLaRosa		
28	Omie DeLaRosa		



Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Loved Ones: Claudia, WELCA, Angela, Joe, Betty, Benjamin, Lexi, Rachel, Jim, Caitlyn, Carol, Janet, Kenneith and Joseph

Our Military members: Branden, Jeff, Nathan & Anthony

Chronic Prayers: Judd Stevenson, Fred Covalt, Mike Dilliard, Mary Elwood, June and John Hanson (Moorman family members), Rita Hays, Larry Joiner, Betty Mallard, Amanda Bennett, Cathy Edwards, Dorothy Cook, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood familys' grandmother & great), Judd Stevenson, Larissa Hinman, Jimmy & Faye Carter, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill's sister), Ruth Vega (Kassi Delarosa's mother)

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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!