



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
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May 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!

Spring has come! Wait...or has it? Sometimes I find it hard to identify specific seasons here in NE Florida because the weather always seems to be doing one of three things: sunny, rainy, or cool with a breeze. Now, don't get me wrong—as a Florida transplant from more northern climates (mostly), I'm quite happy with the weather here. But I do admit it makes it hard to remember exactly WHEN we are in the current calendar.

We have that kind of problem in the Church, too, at times. We get through Lent, finally arrive at Easter, and then it seems like Pentecost jumps into our laps almost immediately. Pentecost, as you know, is the special time when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples, allowing them to preach and teach the Gospel in many languages. It's often referred to as "the birthday of the Church", since without the gift of languages (at times called the Gift of Tongues) it would have been very difficult to spread the good news that Jesus has risen, and that He is still among us, at work with us.

I've seen many ways of celebrating Pentecost. And, our Lord knows, we can certainly use some good news after the months we've put in. Sooo—we've decided to celebrate Pentecost this year (May 23, for those of you who don't already know) by having a birthday party after worship service! Yes! Our little church with a big heart deserves recognition and praise as she has weathered all storms for 18 years. Our church has sheltered us from inclement elements, welcomed us when we were down, given us useful work for when we are energized, and generally "been there" for us in all circumstances. And we intend to celebrate in style, with refreshments and everything.

So what do you give to a church for her birthday? You give just what you would give to any other loved one: prayers, good wishes, time, energy, love, and little extra “frills” such as making sure you always pick up after yourself and anyone else who might forget and leave a mess. Oh—and you may also feel free to give our wonderful Spirit of Life a little something to help her get what she wants and needs for the months ahead. Cash and checks are a great way to recognize a loved one if you have no idea “what size” they need. Remember, our little church with the big heart is open and serving God’s Kingdom whether you are personally here or not.

We wanted to do something special for Mother’s Day this year, so we’re economizing and not handing out posies that fade and die, or little doodads that quickly get lost. We’re going to spend our extra time and energy on getting our mobile building up and ready to occupy as soon as possible. We figured all mothers would understand the need for something practical! And, of course, as always we give our moms and “foster” moms a great big THANK YOU for being so amazing to us even when we behave less than our best. It will be so exciting to have the Food Pantry in its own space and even have some classroom space to use—we might not know how to act with such luxurious accommodations! Plan to be with us, now and in the future. Hope to see you soon!

Blessings!
Pastor Karen

President’s Corner

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

We continue to grow our faith through daily prayer. After all, we are Christians and it’s springtime and a good time to grow. Please continue to look for and seize opportunities to invite your neighbor and friends to worship with us on Sunday. Our nursery and Sunday school are taking form with a few dedicated persons. It is a good feeling to see young faces enjoying an hour learning about Jesus.

Debby has been relentless in her attempts to have our general contractor complete the work on the Modular Building. As soon as we have dates, we will let everyone know.

Soon we will be constructing a platform and steps at the rear door of the building and repairing the rear door. Recently, Vonda and the Pastor cleaned out the church flower bed, removing weeds and thinning out the flowers. Today we replanted 50 of those flower cuttings around the front and side of the Modular Building and one container. It is slowly coming together.

The Congregational Council (Leadership Team) have been wondering if the congregation is finding our monthly news letter informative and useful to you. Please let us know if you would like to see something else. Please let us know if you are actually enjoying the news as well. Please send your thoughts and praises to Kristina so we may continue to grow our information pipeline.

Our Congregational Meeting is coming up fast. Your attendance is very important. We need enough members present to install officers and approve budget / expense planning. Mark your calendar for May 16th immediately following worship.

Remember that ‘faith’; is you, standing by a stream and knowing that there is an ocean.

Blessings, peace and grace to everyone,

- Al Speicher

Community Food Pantry and Garden

Congregational Council Member: Gary Strysick - jstrysick@yahoo.com

Please help!!!

Our Food Panty needs your plastic bags!



eCommunication

Congregational Council Member: Kristina Aldred – kaldred@bellsouth.net 678-761-6387

I often wonder how many people actually read this Newsletter. Some, I am sure, read a bit here or there. Is it helpful? Would you like me to do something else?

Peace,
Kristina

Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

Congregational Council Member: Debbiy Speicher - yayasis@comcast.net

Congregational Council Member: JoAnn Strysick – jstrysick@yahoo.com

In April we had an Easter breakfast which was enjoyed by all who participated.

We also had with help from Ruth's Circle a luncheon celebration for the Deacon installation of Gary Strysick. Gary and I would like to thank everyone who made the day enjoyable. God bless you all.

We are planning on having a birthday party for the church on May 23. Also, plans for a baseball game are being made. More information coming soon.

Yours in Christ,
JoAnn

Outreach would like to thank everyone who donated towards the Yard Sale. We had a very successful sale! We worked on Tuesday and Saturday to sell off all the things that had been donated.



Outreach is looking to opening up a "Clothes Closet". The plan at this time would be one day a month. We will continue to take in clothing that's in good shape, shoes & pocketbooks. We definitely could use some children's clothes so if you have any friends or family with kids who are going through and purging please ask that they consider donating to the church.

Debbiy

Financial Corner

Congregational Council Member: Peggy Williams - pegsha1@gmail.com

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR * APRIL 2021	
Envelope Offerings (TIAA)	\$ 9,472.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 1,327.00
Mission 100 designated donation	\$ 100.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,899.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,195.00
-	
APR operating carryover BALANCE	\$ 4,768.39
Food Pantry Income	\$ 263.00
Food Pantry Expense	\$ -
Food Pantry BALANCE	\$ 6,320.50
BALANCES	
Mission Investment (mortgage)	\$ 241,471.77
Bldg Expansion (MIF)	\$ 14,348.34
Bldg Expansion (CF)	\$ 4,973.02
Bldg Expansion TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 19,321.36
Bldg Expansion expenses \$9,000 Architect & Permits	

*As of 4/26, this does not include interest income received at the end of the month. If any offerings are received after the last Sunday of the month, they will be added to the following Sunday's total offering count.

Property

Congregational Council Member: Dan Nichols - r.daneel.nichols@gmail.com

Please feel free to pull a weed or two that you might see around our church. It only takes a few minutes.

Ruth Circle (WELCA)

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

While Dawn is recuperating, please don't forget our "Free Lending Library" by our church garden. Please drop off your donations of both children and adult books in the office.

Get better soon Dawn!

Worship & Music

Congregational Council Member: Vonda Miller - ontrey64@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE for APRIL

	Worship	Sunday School	Total
4 th	50	2	52
11 th	34	2	36
18 th	23	4	27
25 th	26	3	29



Congratulations to our new Deacon, Gary Stryck, and his wife Joann.

<u>Birthdays</u>		<u>Anniversaries</u>	
2	Penny Lantz	21	Ronnie & Cathy Barnes
2	Sirena Mia De La Rosa	29	Robert & Mary Williams
5	Debby Speicher		
8	Tyler Vickery		
15	Daniel Nichols		
16	Dorothy Cook		
16	Michael Spottswood		
20	Evangeline Lilly De La Rosa		
22	Mary Elwood		
22	Toni Hennis		
24	Jasmine Roziers		



Call to Care (Prayer List)

Our Loved Ones: Claudia, WELCA, Angela, Joe, Betty, Benjamin, Lexi, Rachel, Jim,

Our Loved Ones: Dawn, Launda, Briana, Walter, Kathi, Andrea, Linda, Dan, Steve, Carol

Our Military members: Branden, Jeff, Nathan & Anthony

Chronic Prayers: Amanda Bennett, Rachel & Lexi Billings, Jimmy & Faye Carter, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill's sister), Fred Covalt, Dorothy Cook, Mike Dilliard, Cathy Edwards, Mary Elwood, June and John Hanson (Moorman family members), Rita Hays, Larry Joiner, Betty Mallard, Anne Merritt, Claudia Moreash, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray's mother, Hood family's grandmother & great), Judd Stevenson, Kenneth Tew, Jim Thompson, Ruth Vega (Kassi Delarosa's 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!