



# Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL  
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Septemer 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!

With all the restrictions to our personal and public lives, and all the things on our minds, it's no wonder the days seem to be flying past! Have you had that feeling? We're barely "into" the year, it seems, but already the kids are back to school, we're watching for hurricanes and other natural disturbances, and the longest "church season"—the season of Pentecost—is half over.

As we try to catch our breath and figure out where we have been and where we're going, please take time for yourself mentally, physically, and spiritually. There are more and more cases of exhaustion burn-out and almost complete mental/social collapse showing up in our country every day. Experts say it's for a lot of reasons—and each of us knows the reasons we personally are tired and out of steam. There is no cure for this type of exhaustion except a vacation. However—where do we go when we never know from one day to the next what kind of restrictions or dangers will rear their heads?

There is only one sure way to thrive during times like this (and believe me, "times like this" are not new). We turn to the LORD and all His glory, majesty, and love. As we recently heard the disciples say in the gospel: "LORD, to whom shall we go? YOU have the words of eternal life". And regardless of what we're facing, that is still true. Our Savior never told us the weather would be balmy all the time, there would be summer and no cold days, we'd all be slappy-happy no matter what. No, He was very clear: Times would be bad, but He would come with us every step of the way.

At Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, we know those tired, sad moments. But we have also heard, and come to know, that Jesus is master of everything, whether we consider the times good or evil. He knows every detail of what we face, what we fear, and how we suffer. And He begs us to lay our burdens down and come to Him for rest. Are you praying often? Are you eating wisely? Are you exercising and moving each day, as you are able? Are you finding things every day that delight your soul and take your mind off of trouble? If you are—then good for you, keep it up!! But if you can't seem to find time for yourself, at least take time to spend with Jesus every day. HE will guide you and show you just how strong He is, and convince you to lay your burdens down.

We have a myriad of good, interesting thing planned for us during the rest of the year and we want you up and about with us as we work for the Kingdom together. And don't forget to come to Adult Bible Study at 9am on Sunday mornings, and stay for worship at 10:00. You'd be amazed just how much better we all feel together.

Blessings!!  
Pastor Karen

## Call to Care (Prayer List)

**Our Loved Ones:** Lenny Abbott, Chris Hicken, Peri, Russell Aldred, Peggy, Tay, Mario,

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

**Chronic Prayers:** Tony Spruill, Dwayne, Kristi Foster, Amy Harper, Patti and Ron Wise, Renee Newby, Bobbi Lee, Charlotte Yucca, Grace Paradise, Louis, Steve Hughes, Jimmy & Faye Carter, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill's sister), Fred Covalt, Dorothy Cook (Vonda Miller's mother), Mike Dillard, Cathy Edwards, Rita Hays, Larry Joiner, Betty Mallard, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray's Mom, Hood family's grandmother & great), Judd Stevenson, Jim Thompson, Ruth Vega (Kassi Delarosa's mother),

## eCommunication

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

Our, yours and mine, church needs you!!! Got a little extra time? Got a little extra money? Got a little extra ???? Maybe donate a bottle of wine for Communion or paper for the printer! TP for the bathrooms or paper towels for the kitchen. I am sure Vonda can give you any specifics... give her a jingle.

Peace,  
Kristina

# Community Food Pantry and Garden

Congregational Council Member: Gary Strynick - [jstrynick@yahoo.com](mailto:jstrynick@yahoo.com)

FOOD PANTRY.

August 30, 2021

I forgot to make a report for July. I will include the numbers from that month as well as August.

Both months have been busy, we have been blessed with a lot of food from farm share and northeast Florida along with other contributions from the congregation and other ministries.

We have been doing fairly well with the amount of volunteers we have right now, at least on Tuesday, Mondays the day we set up for the food pantry could use a couple more hands to make the work lighter.

Coming up in October we shall be losing farm share as a supplier for of USDA foods, will be switching to Northeast Florida. At this time we are unsure of how this change will affect our food pantry. I shall try to keep everyone posted as the time gets closer.

Total number of bags handed out thru our pantry for July was 1206 families, so far in August we have handed out 1255 to families and we are expecting to have another 300 to 350 added to finish out this month.

We have not had any problems with deliveries at this time. Have been having a blessing from Farm Share, who has been able to provide us with deliveries if they have time.

We are grateful for all the donations and help we have had to keep this food pantry going, not only from the congregation, but also from those outside our church.

We could use canned vegetables, soups. We have been using them rather fast lately.

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

Congregational Council Member: **Debby Speicher** - [yayasis@comcast.net](mailto:yayasis@comcast.net)

Congregational Council Member: **JoAnn Strynick** – [jstrynick@yahoo.com](mailto:jstrynick@yahoo.com)

Happy Fall!!

We had such a good time at the last baseball game that we are doing it again. The date is September 10th, first pitch at 7:05, followed by Friday Fireworks. Contact me by Sept. 1st if you plan to join us. Tickets are \$14 each. Hope to see you there.

Again we are not able to plan too many things due to the covid. But we will be helping with the Fall Fest and try to see what else can be done. We may plan something for a little later once the weather cools off.

Hope everyone is well and staying safe. Remember God loves you and so do I.

Yours in Christ,  
JoAnn

The Clothes Closet is looking forward to its first day opening on the first Tuesday of September. Anyone who's interested in helping please be there by 9 AM. I am looking forward to finally getting this outreach project up and running. Thank you to all who have made this possible with your donations and time.

Out Reach has set October 23 for our Fall Festival. We are looking to have crafters with their crafts and other vendors. Do you have a craft or product you to sell and would like to rent a 10' x 10' space for \$25, please let me know. This will be a fundraiser for the church. We are already having a lot of interest in the Fall Festival and look forward to having all those who can help make this a success.

Debby

# Financial Corner

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

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR AUGUST 2021	
Envelope Offerings (TIAA)	\$ 7,609.30
Member donations	\$ 400.00
FP pd JEA	\$ 553.64
CF XFER from#30 to pay operating exp	\$ 2,200.00
interest income	\$ 0.99
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 10,763.93</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 10,487.82</b>
<b>AUG operating carryover BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 715.24</b>
Food Pantry Income	\$ -
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 713.64
<b>Food Pantry BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 5,614.69</b>
<b>BALANCES</b>	
Mission Investment (mortgage)	\$ 240,600.75
Bldg Expansion (MIF)	\$ 7,642.33
Bldg Expansion (CF)	\$ 4,974.27
<b>Bldg Expansion TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 12,616.60</b>

## Ruth Circle (WELCA)

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

**Dawn Martin (904)518-6903**

Meeting: Friday Sept. 10th @10am

We will be discussing plans of what things we will want to do.

You don't have to be retired or a certain age to join us.

Peace,  
Dawn

# Worship & Music

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

## ATTENDANCE for AUGUST 2021

	SunSchool	Worship	TOTAL
August 1	2	25	27
August 8	NA		
August 15	4	36	40
August 22	NA	34	34
August 29	3	38	41

Join us every Sunday at 9 a.m. as we study the book of Genesis.

Time & Talent opportunities – Lector (reader) and Assistant Minister are needed every Sunday. Please see Vonda if you are interested to fill in on any Sunday...no experience needed, training is free. I will be reaching out to those that I know have served in the past. Also, we will kick off our stewardship campaign in the near future, bodies needed no experience required.

We are elated to be able to worship in person. We continue to conduct our time together in safe and cautious manner. If you haven't been to church in person in a while, we've missed you and welcome you home.

Did you know?

Gluten free worship wafers are available at the altar. If this meets the needs of your dietary guidelines, please let Pastor Karen know.

Today, most Lutheran churches celebrate Reformation Sunday. This year it is on October 31. The liturgical color of the day is red, which represents the Holy Spirit and the Martyrs of the Christian Church.

Before we know it, Lent season will be upon us. Which brings me to our next subject .... we will be caroling to the community in front of the church this holiday season! Please plan on joining in this fellowship opportunity, we need lots of joyful voices.

Now is the time to look in the windshield and not the rear-view mirror. Jesus is coming and nobody can know when, but we all want to be prepared.

Please be reminded that whenever we are fully committed to worshipping God in the power of the Spirit, it becomes the perfect time for God to speak to our hearts. In worship He can reveal more of Himself to us through songs & Scriptures that praise Him in a biblical fashion. It was in such a state of worship that John began seeing heaven as described in Revelation 4: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who WAS and IS to come!" (verse 8). Granted, our worship on earth can't compare to the worship in Heaven, but it is the best place to begin.

In Christ's Love, Pastor K and Vonda

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## WEEKLY

SUNDAY	9 AM – 9:45 AM	ADULT BIBLE STUDY
MONDAY	8 AM - ?	BEGIN FOOD PANTRY PREP FOR TUESDAY
MONDAY	7 PM	BOY SCOUTS MEET AT SOL
TUESDAY	9:30 – 1 PM	FOOD PANTRY

## UPCOMING

SEPT 6	MON	LABOR DAY
SEPT 7	TUES	CLOTHES CLOSET 9AM – 1PM
SEPT 10	FRI	RUTH'S CIRCLE 10AM
SEPT 10	FRI	JACKSONVILLE JUMBO SHRIMP CHURCH OUTING @ BASEBALL GROUNDS
SEP 22	WED	CRAFT NIGHT AT SOL – TENTATIVELY AT 6PM
SEPT 27	MON	COUNCIL MEETING – 6PM - TENTATIVELY
OCT 4	TUES	CLOTHES CLOSET 9AM – 1PM
OCT 15-16		Synod Assembly conducted electronically – Pastor out of office
OCT 15	FRI	PUMPKIN DELIVERY - TENTATIVELY 4 PM
OCT 23	SAT	FALL FESTIVAL
OCT 16 -31		PUMPKIN PATCH (M-F 3 to 7 PM, SAT 10AM-7PM & SUN 12-7PM)
OCT 31		REFORMATION SUNDAY
NOV 2	TUES	CLOTHES CLOSET 9AM – 1PM
NOV 6	SAT	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – FALL BACK FOR SUN
NOV 7		ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY & DST
NOV 11	THU	VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 22	MON	COUNCIL MEETING – 6PM - TENTATIVELY
NOV 25	THU	THANKSGIVING
NOV 28		1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DEC 1	WED	1ST ADVENT SERVICE – TBD
DEC 6	TUES	CLOTHES CLOSET 9AM – 1PM

<u>Birthdays</u>		<u>Anniversaries</u>	
12	James Williams	26	Jeff & Cassandra DeLaRosa
17	Rita Hays		
19	Karen Beaumont		
20	Milo Polichnia		
22	Grace Paradise		
23	Ashley Barnes		
25	David Williams		
28	Dawn Martin		



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*Community, Faith and Service*

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**[www.SpiritofLifeJacksonville.org](http://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!