



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

Jacksonville, FL
2636 New Berlin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32226
904-757-9114
Email: chur5900@bellsouth.net

Nov/Dec 2021

We spread the gospel through love, acceptance,
and giving of ourselves for Jesus.



In This Issue

- Pastor's Letter
- President's Corner
- Community Food Pantry & Garden
- eCommunication
- Fellowship & Outreach Ministries
- Financial Corner
- Property Team
- Ruth Circle (WELCA)
- Worship & Music
- Prayer List
- Celebrations

Web Site:
<http://spiritoflifejacksonville.org/>



Find Us on Facebook!

And here they come again! “*The Holidays*!!”

That's the way we think, isn't it? For the most part, we have the holidays (meaning, of course, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's) in the back of our minds all year long. The last couple of years have been a bit messed up, but we still long to get to a time when we can, for a short while at least, believe that there's peace on earth, and good will to others in all human hearts.

That's exactly why the story of Jesus is so important. Not just the stories we have about how the angel let Mary and Joseph know that they were going to be (perhaps most inconveniently) the caretakers, parents, and guardians of a very special child. ALL the stories—the ones that sound like good news, and the ones that don't sound like such good news at first. Because all of God's news is good if we look at it from God's point of view.

What?? You say that you have a hard time figuring out what God's point of view really IS? Well, then you really must take time to join us on our Advent journey this year. Every Sunday we'll be on a journey of discovery and anticipation during worship. How is God's news so old, and yet still so very new? Sunday is one time we'll gather—each Sunday at 9am for Bible study, and 10am for worship.

We will also be having Advent suppers every Wednesday evening in our church kitchen, on December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Simple meals where we serve one another at the table and talk as we eat. And then we'll stay to learn more about Mary and Joseph, and the (almost) awful time they had before Jesus was even born! We'll also be doing a craft (or two) that you can take home. A craft that will serve you well every year at Advent time if you put it to use, and be fun, too. My own "title" for this year's journey is "A Place to Stay". Join us and help us to learn God's word, and love God's Word. This year, of all years, is the one to be merry and bright—because God lives with us always.

Blessings!!
Pastor Karen

President's Corner

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

The Modular Building is finally approaching completion. Property is working hard to get the work completed and the City approvals for occupancy.

As you may remember, our mortgage lender agreed to reduce our payments for a few months. This period is almost over and the mortgage payment will increase. Now is the time for you to consider updating your financial support of Spirit of Life church. Our attendance is increasing. We are growing in numbers and in Spirit. Your prayers and diligence are working. Recovery of the pandemic will be a memory but, not yet. Please consider increasing your offerings and prayers.

To create interest in our church for new visitors, we will be creating 'door hangers' with specific church info and events. That's the easy part. We need assistance and ideas for distributing the 'door hangers' in our neighborhoods. Please see Pastor, Debby or Vonda for further information.

Our church is doing great things for our community. Let's give thanks and praise to God for the work he has asked us to do. When we are tired and weary of our labors, remember; God's work, Our hands, and get a good night's rest.

In Blessings and Spirit,
AL Speicher

Call to Care (Prayer List)

Jim Conzemius, Trish, Donna, Ron, Patricia, Chris, Egbert Williams, Kristi ,Kari, Frank, Rita Hays, Patrick, Paul, Johnny Saunders, Faye Black, Lenny Abbott, Tony Spruill, Patti and Ron Wise, Renee Newby, Bobbi Lee, Charlotte Yucca, Grace Paradise, Steve Hughes, Jimmy & Faye Carter, Jackie Corderio (Maggie Spruill sister), Fred Covalt, Dorothy Cook (Vonda Miller mother), Cathy Edwards, Larry Joiner, Betty Mallard, Mary Ellen Sanders (Brenda Murray Mom, Hood family grandmother & great), Judd Stevenson, Ruth Vega (Kassi Delarosa mother)

Our Military members: Branden, Jeff & Nathan

Christian Faith Basics from the Hearts of Evangelical Lutherans

We believe God acts out of love and grace and that ultimately it is love that changes people.

We believe that what truly matters in the life of faith is God's choice of us, and not our decision to "choose" God.

We see God as both revealed and hidden. The crucified Jesus reveals to us the heart of God. Yet for us, God remains a deep and lovely mystery. We believe we need to be a bit humble when it comes to making statements about what God is up to in the world.

We believe God meets us in the ordinary world. We believe that God comes to us through earthly things like water, bread, wine, and other people. We get a little nervous when people think they have a direct pipeline to God, and that they are therefore infallible.

We believe the Bible is "living word". This living word comes from God, and invites us into a deeper relationship with God. We value it too much to claim that it is infallible or without error.

We believe that Christians live in a both/and relationship with the world. We don't despise the world, but we also don't believe the world is the ultimate reality and destination for Christians. We welcome scientific study but don't feel that life can be fully captured by scientific analysis. With God, there is always "something more".

We believe the Church is a community of faith in which there are places and roles for every single person. We believe that all of us are ministers who serve where we are called or placed by God.

We believe the Church is a creation of God, not the result of religious experiences, actions by leaders, or long-held traditions.

We believe that Christians today are connected to Christians of every time and place. We do certain things in worship, and in church life, because those things reflect our deep connection to the witnesses who have gone before us. We are people of tradition, but we believe that changing and being changed is what our tradition is all about.

We believe that, before God and in the presence of the crucified and risen Jesus, all of us are beggars. We believe that ultimately, our worth and purpose in life come as gifts from God, not from anything we do.

We believe that none of our basic faith beliefs are meant to be a barrier to prevent any person from seeking, finding, loving and living with God and with one another.

eCommunication

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

Do you know that Spirit of Life has a FaceBook Page and Group? We also have an “On-line” Craft Fair Group full of Christmas items (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/383970146064054>). Please come support our church. Let your friends know about our Services being on Face Book too!

Peace,
Kristina

Fellowship and Outreach Ministries

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

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

Outreach would like to thank everyone who helped make the fall festival and the pumpkin patch so successful this year. We sold over \$15,000 of pumpkins! Our share is over \$5,000.00, We could never be this successful without everyone’s help! Outreach will be collecting gently used toys and Christmas decorations. We also will be having our surprise grab bags available at all annual Christmas decoration giveaway. So if you have any items please bring them to the church.

Outreach will be doing the Angle Tree so keep on the look out!

Outreach is also looking at a project that will help women in shelters like the Hubbard House, we have collected a lot of purses at the clothes closet and will use some to place women’s products such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hygiene products. If you can help with any of these please bring to the church. If you would like to help reach out to Debby Speicher 904-318-0964.

Financial Corner

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

FINANCIAL CORNER FOR OCTOBER 2021

Envelope Offerings (TIAA)	\$ 7,204.52
craft fair sales	\$ 176.00
clothes closet sales	\$ 15.00
property	\$ 75.00
silent auction	\$ 65.00
Sams	\$ 60.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 7,595.52
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,246.53
Food Pantry Donations	\$ 151.00
Food Pantry Expense	\$ 393.84
Food Pantry BALANCE	\$ 5,486.85
BALANCES	
Mission Investment (mortgage)	\$239,589.55
Bldg Expansion (MIF)	\$ 2,415.26
Bldg Expansion (CF)	\$ 4,140.17
Bldg Expansion TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 6,555.43

Ruth Circle (WELCA)

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Dawn Martin (904)518-6903

Meeting: Friday Dec. 3rd @10am
Come join us for some Bible Study, food and friendship!
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 OCTOER 2021

	<u>SunSchool</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
October 3	2	34	36
October 10	3	39	42
October 17	6	39	45
October 24	3	36	39
October 31	2	30	32

Church is the place where believers can love one another (1 John 4:12), encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13), “spur” one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24), serve one another (Galatians 5:13), instruct one another (Romans 15:14), honor one another (Romans 12:10), and be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32).

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.

In Christ’s Love, Pastor K and Vonda

DEC BIRTHDAY LIST

- 1 Bob Masculine
- 5 Rusty Elwood
- 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

DEC ANNIVERSARY LIST

- 5 Russell & Kristina Aldred
 - 19 Roland & Pastor Biggerstaff
-

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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!