

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Alan Field

New Spirit Lutheran Church

April 2018

Our faith is in Jesus.

Our hope is in grace.

Our strength is in love.

Dear Partners on the Journey,

“April Fools!” I remember playing the “April Fools” jokes on classmates and family members every April 1st. I’m not sure of its origin, but it provided an opportunity to get a laugh and poke some fun at others. There are days when it feels like April Fool’s Day is every day.

This year, though, Easter falls on April 1st. Many people I have encountered over the years treat the Celebration of the Resurrection as nothing more than an April Fools’ prank. Jesus was dead. Everyone who passed by the road to Calvary saw it. Jesus was crucified, killed, dead dead. At the end of the day, they took his body down from the cross and laid it in a stone tomb. That was it. Nobody comes back to life! Or, so they think.

I come to Easter every year with a much different view. I see Easter as the new start, the second chance we get from Almighty God. The symbols that surround the day, butterflies, flowers, white raiment, and yes, even eggs, all point toward the new life Jesus calls us toward.

We have become so culturally tied to the Julian calendar, measuring a year from January 1st – December 31st, that we give all the power of the call to new life then. We celebrate the ending of an old year and the hopeful approach to the new year. Resolutions are made and “good intentions” are set into motion for a new life in the new year. Well, you know how well those resolutions work. And you know it doesn’t take much for us to fall back into our ruts and routines, and in the end little in our lives change.

But, and there’s always a but, Easter is the celebration of new life. It is the celebration of God’s promise that death has no power compared to the power of mercy and grace for the world. Easter is the natural day for people of faith and the community of congregations to reaffirm the ministry and mission that we have committed ourselves to.

During the Season of Lent, the Gospel readings focused on the covenants God had made with humankind. We began with the covenant to Noah and the saving of Noah’s family from the flood. We visited the covenant made with Abram and Sarai where the promises of a future was too difficult for the elderly couple to understand. But, because they were faithful, saying “yes” to each new adventure God offered, the promise of descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky came true.

Each week in Lent we heard a Covenant Promise. When New Spirit was born, we organized our life as a Covenant Community. Based in our Mission Statement: Our Faith is in Jesus; our Hope is in Grace; our Strength is in Love, the Membership Covenant addressed our roles in this community. Everyone had some responsibility. Everyone would share in the mission. Everyone would seek to grow in faith. Our covenant promise is based in community, knowing and loving one another. Our covenant promise is to gather for worship and praise on a regular basis.

It is Easter! The celebration of new life, a continuation of the covenant promise God has made with all of humanity! Isn’t this a good time to consider our life in the coming year? Isn’t it time to shake off the dust and do the hard work of inviting folks to worship; and joining in lending a hand whether it is a physical chore like tending a garden or being a member of a team focused on one area of New Spirit’s life.

It is Easter! The darkness of sadness, death and depression is lifted as the Son-rises to gift us with each new day. Celebrate that promise and join in the dance of all Creation! Jesus is risen! And we are witnesses of that amazing truth. May your days experience the freshness of new life!

Blessings,


Pastor Alan



In Memory.....Ellen Canterbury

Ellen Canterbury died on Sunday, March 4th, at the assisted living facility where she had lived for the past three years. Ellen demonstrated her Spiritual Gifts of Prayer, Exhortation, Faith, and Mercy. Despite the fact that her body began to betray her years ago, her soul was so deeply woven with the Spirit's grace that she met each day with confidence and peace. We celebrated Ellen's life on March 20th. Please remember her sons, Mark, a member of New Spirit, and Leslie, of Redlands, CA. Ellen will be interred in her family's cemetery plot in Michigan. Rest well faithful friend.



 *Summer Schedule* **Summer Worship Schedule** begins May 20th. From then until September 9th (God's Work, Our Hands Sunday) we will have one Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. We will follow an alternating schedule of two weeks Traditional worship, then two weeks Contemporary worship through the summer. Traditional worship will use familiar liturgies from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal. The Contemporary worship will introduce some new songs, as well as the themed-worship we have done for years. Coffee Fellowship will be held before worship each Sunday.

Veggie Distribution - Saturday, April 7

Our second Vegetable and Bread Distribution is Saturday, April 7th. We will have two shifts to better use your time.



The first shift (9:00-11:00) will need to arrive at 9:00 a.m. You will set up tables, bag vegetables, sort through bread and assist people to collect their food.

The late shift (11:00-1:00) will distribute food to people, and help take down tables and clean up.

Sign-up sheet is on the magnet board in the Narthex. Yes, you can work both shifts if you wish. Please indicate which shift you plan to work.

This vegetable distribution is not limited to the Food Bank clients. Anyone can come for the three types of veggies we will be given to distribute.

Last month we had 3,000 pounds of gorgeous green peppers, summer squash, and cucumbers. We will see what the Food Bank will send us on April 7th.

Invite your neighbors and friends!

Wednesdays 'til mid-May

Wednesday suppers will continue through May 16th. On April 4th we will watch Rick Steves' video on Easter practices in Europe at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Following that, classes, studies, or groups will be announced shortly.

We have been host to a growing number of homeless people. This Wednesday meal may be the only hot meal they get in a week. Come and meet some of our "camping neighbors."



SALCA Bible Camp is scheduled for May 27-June 1st at **Triangle Y Ranch Camp in Oracle**. This year's theme is "**Be Strong and Courageous for the Lord is with You.**" Campers need to have completed 3rd grade -8th grade. Registration is \$275/camper. New Spirit will pay one-half of that cost for members.

Grand Canyon Synod Assembly June 14-16, Resurrection Lutheran, Oro Valley. This year's Assembly will be focused on the election of our new Synod Bishop. The event has been lengthened to allow for sessions with the Bishop candidates. New Spirit is allotted two members, one male, one female, plus Pastor Alan.



Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ELCA National Youth Gathering is now 87 days away. Eight New Spirit members will be flying to Houston on June 26th to join 37,000 of our closest ELCA friends from across the country for 5 days of learning, serving, worship and play! In addition to nightly gatherings at the NRG stadium, our group will be working in post-hurricane Houston on Friday of that week. We will also be going to the NASA Space Center after the event ends!!! Please remember the Gathering in your daily prayers.

All women are encouraged to attend Deborah's Gathering-WELCA WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY on April 11th. at 3:15 in Rm. 105 for Bible study and friendship. The lesson comes from the Gather magazine. The April lesson will be about the Prodigal Son. This series has covered ways that the Bible stories mean different things to different people. Come to the study and see how your thoughts compare with others. At the March meeting, Easter cards designed by Joyce Dow and put together by the women were sent to ladies who are unable to come to church or Bible study. Plastic bottle caps are collected and every 1,000 helps to get a child in Mexico a cancer treatment. Box tops for education from food packages are collected and go to the Navajo school in Rock Point, Az.. We took 2.8 lbs of can tabs to Ronald McDonald House. They use the funds to help pay utility bills and buy supplies for the house. Please save the above items and put them in the drawers under the shelves in the Narthex. Barbara Rebok, Linda Lamb and Gloria Burke attended the spring Santa Cruz/Sunrise conference at Mt. Zion. Theme was FILL MY CUP LORD. The luncheon theme was the Mad Hatter's Tea with a best dressed Queen contest. Gloria from New Spirit and Mae from Streams in the Desert shared the 1st. prize. The Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA convention/gathering will be November 9-11, 2018 in Phoenix. All women are invited to attend. The March study was from Luke 10:3-37 about the Good Samaritan and compared the way the Samaritan felt helping someone from a group of people he did not like with how the injured man felt about accepting help from someone from a group of people he did not like. Our hymn #659 Let Me Be Your Servant asks to be a servant and also have the grace to let someone be our servant. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus said, " You have heard that you should love your neighbor---but I say to you, love your enemies.



Gloria Burke, Secretary



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Did you know that there are more than 1,000 Blessings in a Backpack programs across the country? Bags of food are going home every Friday of the school year and children are getting the nutrition they need for improved health and academic success because of people like YOU - our volunteers, donors, and partners. Thank you!

This school year Blessings in a Backpack aims to serve more than 100,000 children - that's more than 3.8 million hunger-free weekends - across the nation. How can you help? For as little as \$10 a month, you can help us feed one child this school year.

Here at New Spirit, we feed **228** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend. Typical items include macaroni n' cheese box, canned sausages, chicken or tuna, oatmeal, canned beans, hot cocoa, canned vegetables, and fruit cup.

For regular contributions, please make your tax deductible check to Blessings in a Backpack. You can drop it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or drop it directly in the mail to BIB Lockbox, PO Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40295.

Remember to put Steele Elementary on the memo line.

Our team members are hard at work to keep up with the added students each week. Learn more about what we do and how you can help. **We need volunteers to help with fund raising, planning, purchasing, packing, and delivery.** Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

“Like” our page on Facebook ***Blessings at New Spirit Lutheran Church***

After Tax Bash



Many of you have had a taxing year, so come to the church on **April 21st from 12:00 - 4:00pm**, and sit back, relax, and have a burger while you listen to our very own Jamie and Mark Buglewicz . They have graciously offered to take some time out of a very busy schedule to entertain us. I don't want to scare you off, but I might even do a song or two. That way you can appreciate Mark and Jamie even more!

This will be a simple affair with some burgers on the grill and some other pot luck food. I'll have a sign-up sheet on the board in the Narthex for those of you who want to bring something.

This is our way of saying thanks to those of you who have donated time and money to the tax site ministry; and all of you for putting up with us taking over the Fellowship Hall during tax season.

All are welcome!!

Blessings,

John E. Lukecart

April Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



4/1 Katie Uidenich

4/8 Victor Garibay, Jr.

4/9 Joe Vohnoutka

4/11 Henry Kwapich

4/14 Deb Klink

4/17 Ron O'Connor
James West

4/19 Dorothy Hybarger

4/20 Steve & Linda Lamb
(Anniversary)

4/21 Altaira Garibay
Marie Halver
Shereen O'Connor

4/23 Joselyn Uidenich

4/25 Jenny Kwapich

4/30 Ken Dobbs



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

The new storage shed is here! As the numbers of people we are serving steadily grows, we now have a place to hold the ever expanding items needed. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED AND MADE THIS HAPPEN.

March brought us another 30 clients. We are now seeing more “marginal” clients (they have shelter but still struggle with having enough food to eat). We now offer haircuts, 1-day bus passes, access to housing, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, and a great home cooked meal. Many now share Wednesday dinners with us and a few join us on Sunday mornings for worship. Much needed hugs abound at each event. Please visit us on April 14th from 1-3 pm and see for yourself!

We had a visit from Ted Prezelski from Ward 2 Council Member Paul Cunningham’s office. He listened to concerns from our clients and will assist in trying to work out some problems that our clients have living on the streets.

There are collection boxes in NSLC’s narthex. See the list below of items we always need. As we grow, we are looking to put donation boxes in area businesses. If you know some place that would be willing to help us, please let us know.

If you’d like to help our ministry with a cash donation, please make your tax deductible check to New Spirit Lutheran Church with the notation for Homeless Blessings in the memo. You can drop it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to NSLC, 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85710.

Want to help? Contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

PLEASE DONATE:
MEN’S AND WOMEN’S NEW UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS
SHOES
BACKPACKS AND TARPS
AA AND AAA BATTERIES
FULL SIZE SHAMPOO, LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT
RAZORS, COMBS, BRUSHES
PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED MEATS
PROTEIN DRINKS

Good Morning on this Easter Day. To me this day is the fullness of the transfiguration. I hope you enjoy this story.

“Sheltering Wings” By Harriet Louise Jerome

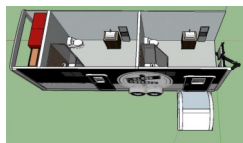
It was intensely cold, heavy sleds creaked as they scraped over the jeweled sounding board of dry, unyielding snow. The signs above shop doors shrieked and groaned as they swung helplessly to and fro. The clear, keen air seemed frozen into sharp little crystalline needles that stabbed every living thing that must be out in it. The streets were almost forsaken in mid-afternoon. Businessmen hurried from shelter to shelter, every dog remained at home. Not a bird was to be seen or heard. The sparrows had been forced to hide themselves in crevices and holes. The doves found protected corners and huddled together as best they could. Many birds were frozen to death.

A dozen or more doves were gathered close under the cornice of the piazza of a certain house, trying with little success to stay warm. Some small sparrows, disturbed and driven from the cozy place they had chosen, saw the doves and came flying across the piazza. “Dear doves,” chirped the sparrows, “won’t you let us nestle near you? Your bodies look so large and warm.” “But your coats are frosted with cold. We cannot let you come near us, for we are almost frozen now,” murmured the doves sadly. “But we are perishing” “So are we.” “It looks so warm near your broad wings, gentle doves. Oh let us come. We are so little and so very, very cold!” “Come,” cooed a dove at last, and a trembling little sparrow fluttered close and nestled under the broad white wing. “Come,” cooed another dove, and another little sparrow found comfort. “Come! Come!” echoed another warm hearted bird and another, until at last more than half the doves were sheltering small, shivering sparrows beneath their own half-frozen wings. “My sisters, you are very foolish,” said the other doves. “You mean well, but why do you risk your own beautiful lives to give life to worthless sparrows?” “Ah! They are so small, and so very cold,” murmured the doves. “Many of us will parish this cruel night. While we have life let us share its meager warmth with those in bitter need.”

Colder and colder grew the day. The sun went down behind the clouds suffused with soft and radiant beauty, but more fiercely and relentlessly swept the wind around the house where the doves and sparrows waited for death. An hour after sunset a man came up to the house and strode across the piazza. As the door of the house closed heavily behind him, a little child watching from the window saw something jarred from the cornice fall heavily to the piazza floor. “Oh, Pa Pa,” she cried in surprise, “a poor frozen dove has fallen on the porch!” When he stepped out to pick up the fallen dove the father saw the others under the cornice. They were no longer able to move or to utter a cry, so he brought them in and placed them in a room where they might slowly revive. Soon more than half of the doves could coo gratefully, and raise their stiffened wings. Then out from beneath the wing of each revived dove fluttered a living sparrow. “Look Pa Pa!” cried the child. “Each dove that has come to life was holding a poor little sparrow close to her heart.” They gently raised the wings of the doves that could not be revived. Not one had a sparrow beneath it. Colder and fiercer swept the wind without, cutting and more piercing grew the frozen, crystalline needles of air, but each dove that had sheltered a frost-coated sparrow beneath her own shivering wings lived to rejoice in the glowing, gladsome sunshine of the days to come, The End?

To all my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Love, M.L. Marty Mosthaff



We'd like to introduce our goal for Cloud Covered Streets – a mobile shower with laundry! As we have been meeting more and more of the homeless, we want to be able to do more for each of them. They have told us how difficult it can be to shower regularly. We want to expand further than clean shirts and toiletry gifts into helping the homeless we encounter to feel normal again. No one is born homeless and we believe that providing a mobile shower facility with a washer and dryer will help every person we encounter to feel a little more hope inside. Please help us reach this goal so that we can make this dream a reality! NSLC's Church Council and Homeless Blessings Team supports this fund raising effort, as they will visit our 2nd Saturday events. We can provide this much needed service to our homeless clients! Please make a donation online at <http://cloudcoveredstreets.org/donate-today/> or <https://www.gofundme.com/ccs-showers>. If you'd like to help our ministry with a cash donation, please make your tax deductible check to New Spirit Lutheran Church with the notation for Cloud Covered Streets in the memo. You can drop it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to NSLC, 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85710.

Laurie Bernard, Phil Pierce and Marty Mosthaff.

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT- Ron O'Connor for his work to find a new source for Columbarium plaques!

SHOUT OUT - March's cook team : Susan Armstrong, Cathy Cermak and LaSandra Matthews.

SHOUT OUT - Terry Wolfe for pruning lots of trees.

SHOUT OUT - The March 3rd produce distribution team.

SHOUT OUT - Every Workday crew in the month of March.

SHOUT OUT - All who talk about New Spirit with friends and strangers.



Sundays:

9:00 am Arise to Praise

(Spirited Contemporary Worship)

10:15 – 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Traditions

(Classic Hymns & Liturgies)

Wednesdays: 5:30 pm Dinner, 6:15pm Classes

How to contact us:

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