

# That's The Spirit!

Rev. Alan Field

New Spirit Lutheran Church

August 2017

*Our faith is in Jesus.*

*Our hope is in grace.*

*Our strength is in love.*

Dear Partners on the Trail,

What is the future of the church? There is a lot of buzz about that very subject out there. This ought not surprise anybody because the Christian Church in America has been on a steady decline for the past twenty years. It is clear that culturally, Sunday mornings are no longer understood as worship/church time. Sports, quality family time, and home care now fill the Sunday schedules of families and seniors alike.

The rite of worship no longer engages participants in deepening or broadening of their personal lives, or their spiritual lives. A growing concern in congregations large and small is the growing disconnection with the people there. Once, the church was a center for social gatherings as well as worship. Once church softball leagues, bowling leagues, youth groups, potluck suppers, and ministry/activities engaged people and gave them additional connections to truly be the Body of Christ. That is not the world in which we live today.

Starkly put: what the church has been doing for the past 50 years is no longer working. In this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation it could be that we are on the verge of a “second reformation” for the Church to step into the next 10-20 years? I cannot even say 500 years.

Across the country, congregations are discovering some troubling issues. Among those who worship regularly, 3-4 Sundays each month, there does exist a reticence to talk about matters of faith. While participation in a familiar worship venue is comforting, an expected deepening of faith (discipleship) is not a “given.”

Among those who worship less often, 1-2 Sundays each month, the lack of relationships and connections among members is noted as a reason for less participation.

Sunday School participation is “the canary in the coal mine.” If parents do not treasure faith development for themselves, they will likely not treasure it for their children. It can no longer be assumed that Confirmation students will know even the most basic Bible stories. By Middle School, many students look at “faith development” as a foreign language.

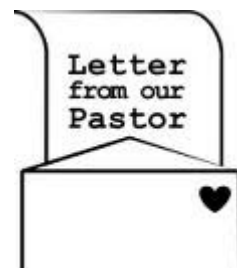
Do not lose heart! Congregations are taking some big, faithful steps to address this chapter of the Church's life. Many congregations have added a Saturday evening service while limiting Sunday worship to one shortened service (40-45 minutes) plus the addition of “Connect Groups” small groups that use a study guide based on the readings from worship. Connect Groups not only address relationships, they also help participants to “speak words of faith.”

In the Midwest and Northwest, ELCA congregations have opened craft breweries and coffee shops, offering Hymns & Brews to create a family friendly, neighborhood community. Here in Tucson, “Open Space” is an ELCA sponsored ministry that focuses on the gift of the arts, specifically “graffiti art.” Pastor Lars Hammar is leading that edge-ministry in central Tucson. Open Space meets in a store front on Speedway.

The Reformation was not intended for the Church to teach the Gospel to keep it inside our walls. No, the Reformation was intended for the Kingdom of God to grow expansively within the hearts and minds of congregation members. You are the benefactors of the Gospel message. You are to be the ambassadors of that grace and mercy to others.

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Alan





### **Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest** **You Called Nura Out of Darkness**



Nura wakes up most nights crying in her sleep.

Maybe she is haunted by the memories of 20 years in a refugee camp – not knowing when reprieve would come. Maybe her spirit forgets that her abusive ex-husband is on the other side of the world – no longer able to beat and threaten her. Maybe she feels the weight of being a single mom of three children in a new country – having never had the chance to earn a living before.

But during the day – Nura is a different woman.

She works stocking shelves at a local store and learns the independence that comes with a hard earned paycheck. She makes friends with her co-workers. She studies English so that she can pursue her GED and advance her job opportunities. She focuses on her wellness with nutritious meals and exercise, with goals of improving her chronic illnesses that were never treated in the camp.

Nura is just one of hundreds of refugees that arrived in Arizona in 2016 because of your support. With simple tools like nutrition classes, English classes, and a routine medical appointment – Nura has begun to blossom. Nura's next goal is to study for her driver's permit, so that she has more reliable transportation to work.

There are many refugees like Nura that are already in Arizona and need your support so that they can continue to access our services during a delay in resettlement funding. Your gift on Arizona Gives Day makes this work possible. Thank you.

To learn more about Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, visit them online at [www.lss-sw.org](http://www.lss-sw.org).

**K-Hall has been re-keyed** to ensure ICS's security. If you have had a key for the K-Hall exterior doors, you will need to checkout a new K-Hall key. You will be asked to return your New Spirit key at that time. Keys can be checked out from Samantha in the Church Office.



#### **In Memory of Sally Thorndike.**

Sally passed on July 26th. Sally always loved New Spirit Lutheran Church and participated in the Handbells at Christmas time. She was unable to attend church in recent years and missed being a part of New Spirit.



**Godspeed and farewell to Chrystal Wood,,,** Chrystal has lived with her brother Michael for a number of years, as her MS has worsened. Upon Michael's death last month, it was decided that Chrystal would be better off if she could move in with her brother, Alan, in Florida. Chrystal flew to Florida on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Her address in Florida will be: **189 Via Havarre, Merritt Island, FL 32953**

#### **In Memory....Michael Hansen**

Michael died June 29<sup>th</sup> of a heart attack at his home here in Tucson. Michael was the son of Marlene Hansen, and brother of Chrystal Wood. His health had been declining over the past six years with frequent admissions to the hospital. We gathered for a Celebration of Michael's life on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Prayers for Marlene, for Chrystal who has moved to Florida to live with her brother, Alan, and Michael's five children.

Remember in your prayers **Sharon Dobbs** on the death of her sister in Texas on July 25<sup>th</sup>.



We have been introducing **Setting 8** from the **Evangelical Lutheran Worship** hymnals since May.

Beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>, we will use **Setting 4** from the **ELW**. It should be familiar to everyone as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Setting of the green hymnal, the **LBW**. We will use that setting, as well as **Now the Feast and Celebration** through the months of Fall.

In **Advent**, we will introduce **Setting 3**, familiar to some. In **Epiphany** we will go back to **Setting 8**, until the season of **Lent** when we will introduce yet another setting.

Remember, you can sign-on to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and enter ELW Setting \_ to hear all of these various settings.

The **ELW** has **ten settings** of the Holy Communion. It has been designed to allow congregations to be flexible with the various pieces and parts of the liturgy. The intent is to prevent congregations from settling into a "worship rut" by worshipping the form instead of the presence of God. Let our worship lift up the name of Jesus, and the presence of God in the Holy Spirit.

**Interfaith Community Services** celebrated their **100<sup>th</sup> Faith Community Partner** at a gathering at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Over the past 32 years, ICS has grown in its base-of-support from congregations across greater Tucson. Now 100 worshipping communities, ranging the full spectrum of faith expressions, offer concrete support for those at most risk: rent & utilities assistance, food, job resources and help creating resumes, and interviewing skills. Volunteers continue to be the heart-beat of ICS. Volunteer training is offered here at New Spirit bi-monthly. A new program "**Homelessness Prevention Program**" works with homeless families to get them off the streets and into affordable housing, paying for rent and utilities for 3-months so adults can focus on schooling, training, or securing a job.



**New Spirit was recognized and thanked** for our opening K-Hall to house the ICS East Office and providing key support for the Food Bank ministry, and offering several volunteers who help in a number of categories in ICS's ministries.

## **New Spirit Needs You!**

You probably are saying " for what?"

It's nothing new. We've been saying it a while because it's true!! Oh, in the summer it's a little slower so it may not be as obvious. But the truth is, there are many tasks that need to be done. In last month's newsletter we identified the different teams. Find one that suits your interest. We have a council person identified with each team. On September 10 you have an opportunity to learn more, in person, about these teams at our ministry fair. But I want you to be thinking about it now. Where do your talents lie? Or where do you want to make a difference?

By being involved in the life of the church you will gain new friends as well. It's by working together we grow in intimacy. As we grow in our relationships we can take better care of each other. In this world of technology we need to find ways to stay connected. What better way than by serving. Yes, it is serving our Lord when you help out on some team. It is through the teams that our ministry flourishes, within our walls and outside. God created us to do His work here on earth. Are you going to say " no" to God?

**WE NEED YOU!**

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### **Handbell / Chime choir (Grace Notes)**

We still need more ringers and if you like the music come join us. You do not have to read music to start. We use a colored note system and if you can count and know blue and pink, you are ready! God gives us talents that we have not discovered yet so maybe this is one of yours!

A Guinness World Record was broken when 664 handbell musicians rang at the Mall of America. It was done when the Salvation Army North and the Mall of America wanted to create a spectacular event for their Red Kettle Campaign. Getting everything to work together was a gigantic task and then a blizzard threatened the Midwest. If you are ever in a city where one of the yearly events is being held, try to go hear it. In the past the Grace Notes attended and rang at some area events in other states. It is really special to hear several hundred handbells ringing at one time. Call Gloria Burke for information 520-296-7834.

### **Guess who is having a Birthday real soon!!**

Please come and Join us as we celebrate the 90th birthday of Paul S. Walton

When: Saturday, September 2nd, 2017

Where: Fellowship Hall at New Spirit Lutheran Church

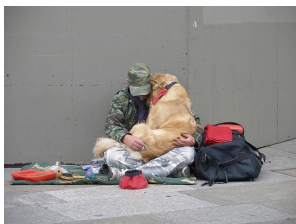
Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Everyone is invited to join us for lunch, cake, music and fellowship. Please NO presents. Please RSVP by August 15th.

If you want to bring some non-perishable food items for the church's food pantry or a check to New Spirit Lutheran Church and in the memo indicate food bank, those in need can also benefit from this fun celebration it would be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you all on September 2nd.

Edna & Paul Walton





## HOMELESS BLESSINGS

PLEASE HELP THE TEAM OUT BY CONTRIBUTING WHAT YOU CAN  
The next scheduled dates are:

SATURDAY, August 12<sup>TH</sup> at 9:00 A.M.

SATURDAY, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

For information on how you can help, contact the NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at 886-3242 or [lbernard2008@hotmail.com](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

Boxes will be available in the Narthex to collect contributions. Items needed:

Disposal razors/shaving gel

Deodorant

Small Spray Bottles

Bar Soap

Band-aids/antiseptic gel

Lotion

Shampoo

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Sunscreen/Lip Balm

Flashlights

AA & AAA Batteries

**Canned meat/Beans (preferably with pull tab opening) - Tuna, Roast Beef, Chicken, Spam**

**Peanut butter**

**Protein Drinks**

Refillable Water Bottles

Hand Wipes/Hand Cleanser

Gently Used Clothing

**New Underwear & Socks**

Men/Women's Shoes

If you are interested in keeping homeless bags in your car to hand out when you see someone in need, let Laurie Bernard know and we'll make one available to you. You can make our Homeless Blessings events a success! Please pick up a few handouts located on the counter in the Narthex and pass them out when you see someone on the street that needs our help! Thank you so much for your continued support. Your generosity is what makes our efforts possible.



## August Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



08/01 Dolores Gran

08/14 Ciana Maple,  
Allison Uidenich, Terry Wolfe

08/21 Colin Uidenich

08/02 Lee Horley

08/15 Christina Payette

08/22 Paul Stuetze

08/03 Craig & Renee Geiger  
(anniversary)

08/16 Lis Schafer  
Terry & Joy Wolfe  
(anniversary)

08/25 Carrie Crace

08/04 Naida Granmo

08/17 Paul Hedstrom  
Paul & Edna Walton  
(anniversary)

08/29 Katharina Morales,  
Mia Payette, Chieko Casey

08/05 Gladys Mack

08/08 Ben Burch  
Ray & Lis Schafer  
(anniversary)

08/19 Paul & Brigitte Stuetze  
(anniversary)

08/30 Victor Garibay,  
Amber Jindrick

08/09 Verola Halvorson





## BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK NEWS

School begins August 3<sup>rd</sup> and our team will begin delivering snack packs on August 18<sup>th</sup>. We received a donation of 750 snack packs from the Arizona Association of School Business Officials at their conference in July. This will enable us to feed the 222 children from Henry, Steele, Erickson, and Ford Elementary Schools for almost a whole month. Thanks to their team of volunteers for this wonderful contribution!

We will be hosting a visit from Tucson Mayor Rothschild again on National Blessings in a Backpack Day on September 28 at 2:30 at the church. If you'd like to come by and help us pack, please let the New Spirit office know.

To donate, please make your tax deductible check out 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.**

Also, you can sign up for or update your Fry's Community Reward Program (New Spirit Lutheran Church NPO #12101). A percentage of your purchases goes to benefit our BIB Program. If you have any questions, please email [FrysCommunityRewards@frysfood.com](mailto:FrysCommunityRewards@frysfood.com) or visit the website at [www.fryscommunityrewards.com](http://www.fryscommunityrewards.com).

If you are a member of Thrivent, you can designate your Thrivent Dollars to Blessings in a Backpack. Thanks to those members who have done this for us!

Want to help? We always need help with fund raising, picking up food, packing, and delivering to the schools. If you can help, please contact the church office or Laurie Bernard and Cathy Cermak.

### **Calling all Cooks, Chefs, Bakers, and Culinary Explorers**

Next month New Spirit's Wednesday Evening Suppers will resume. We are planning to use the rotating schedule of "Cook Teams" to prepare and serve suppers on Wednesdays for 25-40 people.

We tried this last year, and the repeated comments were appreciation for the wide variety of food with an equally broad expression of spices and flavors.

We have a sign-up sheet on the Narthex magnet board. We will hold our organizing meeting following worship on **Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**.

We have replaced the grill we've used for the past dozen years, with a new charcoal grill with smoker attachment. This can really broaden our possibilities for Wednesday Suppers.

***Suppers and classes will begin Wednesday, September 13th, serving at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.***



## August Adventure

The Spiritual Practice for the month of August is: **Showing Mercy, Patience and Forgiveness.** One of the quotes that I remember from my high school Shakespeare class was the “Quality of Mercy” speech from The Merchant of Venice. For those who aren’t Shakespeare fans, I will quote only the first part:

AND SO THE  
*Adventure*  
BEGINS

*The quality of mercy is not strained, It droppeth like the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath: it is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes; 'tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes the throned monarch better than his crown; ...But mercy is above this sceptered sway; it is enthroned in the hearts of kings, it is an attribute to God himself; and earthly power doth then show likest God's when mercy seasons justice.* (I really love that quote!)

There is beauty in living from a merciful heart instead of the judgmental part of ourselves. Anne Lamott, comments in an interview, “It’s the way to peace, the way to feeling safe and connected. It’s all the things we long for.”

Mercy is the action of grace. It is being aware of the miracle that we are forgiven, and the miracle that we can forgive even with the most impossible and hurtful people; and we find this in our tenderhearted relationship with God and the Shalom of God wanting us.

Could mercy be our hope in the political realm of today? A. R. Hochschild writes in her book, “Strangers in Their Own Land,” about her experience with the Tea Party movement in Louisiana. She came to terms again and again that miracles happen with people listening to each other instead of judgment and arms crossed.

Anything but mercy and forgiveness just hurts us and keeps us clenched and defensive. Communion and community can soften our scared hearts if we will be still and listen.

Maybe the best thing that we can do as we begin to concentrate on this “practice” for the month is the action of mercy. Ann Lamott has said over and over that if **you take the action, then the insight follows.** We don’t have to wait until we get all perfect, but just extend mercy. Jesus said, “be merciful as your Father is merciful.” In that amazing flow of mercy, we can enter into the embodiment of mercy in this fractured land.



### Would you like to seriously deepen and broaden your faith life at New Spirit?

**The Diakonia** study is a 2-year course for lay members of the church to deepen and broaden your faith and understanding of the life and mission of the Lutheran Christian Church. The course includes six 5-week courses the first year (New Testament overview, Early Church History, Lutheran Creed and Confessions, Visitation, the Daily Life of a Christian, and a module of topical ministry of the local congregations). The second year also offers six 5-week sessions (Old Testament overview, Lutheran Theology, Faith in the American context, Communicating the Gospel, Lutheran Worship, and Christian Ethics).

Classes will meet weekly for each of the six courses each year. Local groups will decide on their class day and times.

The tuition cost of the Diakonia Study is \$360/year, or \$720 for the two years.

Upon completion of the course there will be graduation and certification of your completion of the course.

There will be an informational meeting at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

# New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

## Shout-Outs

***SHOUT OUT- Samantha DiFebbo for coming up to her first year with us as secretary.***

***SHOUT OUT - Ken Dobbs and his team for relentless attention to our grounds.***

***SHOUT OUT - Laurie Bernard for securing donations for Blessings in a Backpack.***

***SHOUT OUT - Cathy Cermak and the Geigers for their monthly spiritual journey ideas.***

***SHOUT OUT - Team of Ellie Thompson which was Bich Francis, Darlene Paape and Verola Halvorson who served up lunch after Michael Hansen's service.***



Please submit words of thanks and praise to Samantha at [newspiritlutherantucson@yahoo.com](mailto:newspiritlutherantucson@yahoo.com) to be placed in the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

### Sundays:

**Our Summer Worship Schedule** Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday through the Summer.

Fellowship Half-hour will be served in Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:00.

### How to contact us:

New Spirit Lutheran Church  
8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

**Phone:** (520) 296-2461

**E-Mail:** [NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com](mailto:NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [newspiritlutherantucson.org](http://newspiritlutherantucson.org)