

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Alan Field

New Spirit Lutheran Church

November 2017

Our faith is in Jesus.

Our hope is in grace.

Our strength is in love.

Dear Partners on the Trail,

We will soon be cresting the hill to enter the extended holiday season that I like to call “Thanksmas.” Over the years the separation between Thanksgiving Day highlighted by families gathering around a turkey dinner, the Thanksgiving Day parade, and football games, and Christmas highlighted by the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, and Christmas family traditions of Christmas dinner, the exchange and opening of gifts, and all that the season would bring, that space has dwindled.

I say “would bring” because there has evolved a much longer cultural celebration that has blurred the lines between “giving thanks” and anticipating God’s promised Messiah to save us from our own undoing.

It is apparent that we have moved from giving thanks, with generous hearts giving our best, to the loud clamor for extreme sales, too many demands on our time and that certain exhaustion that is fully experienced the day after Christmas. I just get tired thinking of all of that.

But, and there’s always a but, thank God for the bounty of this earth. And thank God for the variety and spectrum of people and personalities. And thank God for the various abilities each of us are hard-wired with that enable us to do our vocational work, and to be knit in community with the saints who share with us the gift of grace and peace.

I want to invite you to simplify your “thanksmas” challenge this year. I invite you to step back into the preparation of giving-thanks for all the God has given you and yours. Be mindful of the Holy Spirit’s closeness within you. Be mindful of your family members and friends with whom you will share the feast. Be mindful of God’s call to be as generous in our giving as God has been with us.

This year, I invite you to consider to “Live Generously.” I invite you to test that edge of faithfulness that decides to trust in God’s providing. Instead of living and giving safely, I encourage you to live and give generously.

The Spiritual discipline of tithing, an honest 10% of what God gives to you, is such a powerful discovery. To live on the other 90% will initially cause some concern, I promise. But, trusting God to provide for your needs is renewing, and enlightening.

As we prepare to enter the new Church-year in Advent, the Gospels according to Mark & John will call us to faithfulness to put our faith and trust in Jesus, himself. As we trust Jesus more and more, we will be amazed at how very much we have been given, and how our generosity will be a life-giving experience.

In this coming year, I am going to invite you to commit each month to consider one of the three portions of the New Spirit Mission Statement. “Our Faith is in Jesus, Our Hope is in Grace, Our Strength is in Love.” For the month of December, I invite your daily consideration of who Jesus is to you. In January, I will invite your daily consideration of how God’s Grace is seen in your daily life. In February, Valentine’s Day month, let’s consider how “Our Strength is in Love.” And I will invite you to daily exercises to explore each of them. During 2018 you will consider our life together four times for each facet of our mission: Faith in Jesus. Hope in Grace, Strength in Love.

But, before we begin that journey, I invite you to prepare yourselves for “living generously” by increasing your offerings toward the 10% tithe. If you give 10%, consider growing to 11% because God has been generous to you. This is a matter of trust. It is a matter of faith. It is a discipline of sacrificial giving to build up the Body of Christ in this place. Before the craziness of “Thanksmas” diverts your attention, attend to these faithful matters of generosity and faithfulness.

Faithfully,

Pastor Alan

Letter
from our
Pastor



Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. November 23rd at New Spirit. We will center on the “Eucharist”, the Holy Communion. The Greek word “eu-charist” literally translates to “Good Gift”, and Miss Manners has always encouraged us to “Give Thanks” when we receive a “Good Gift.” So, quite literally, the Holy Communion, the EUCHARIST is the original thanks-giving feast. We will share together the feast of forgiveness with all who gather.



Thanksgiving Eve worship is an excellent way to begin your family Thanksgiving celebration together.

It has been awhile since we shared a “**Holiday Piece of Pie Fellowship**” after the Thanksgiving Service. You are invited to share a pie, and to share a piece of pie with the extended family of faith at New Spirit. If you would like to donate a pie, you can sign up on the magnet board in the Narthex.



Live Generously
TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY COUNTS

“Live Generously” Sunday, November 5th will be **Commitment Sunday at New Spirit**. On that day members and non-members will bring their completed Pledge Cards for 2018, and will place them on the altar as a sign of your promise to God through the ministry of the Church. Members who have not returned their pledge cards by Monday, November 13th will receive a call from a Church Council member.

Thanks for all the Trunk or Treat Participants Each year we gather in the Spanish Trail Parking lot, families and children dressed for the evening are welcome to this safe-place. In our complicated and often times dangerous world, the safety of **New Spirit’s Trunk or Treat** is so appreciated by parents in the neighborhood. There is always a spirit of “generous living” as we hand out candy to Batman, Princesses, Ninja warriors, and all sorts of characters! Thank you, to all who shared in the evening. You are a blessing to our neighborhood children and youth!



Advent Midweek Services will be held *Nov. 29th, December 6, 13, and 20th*, at 6:15 p.m. following Wednesday evening suppers. This year’s theme will be “*Hark the Glad Sound*” which will call for each of us to listen carefully for the quiet, sometimes distant, voice of the angels. You and your family will want to be attuned this Advent season. **Hanging of the Greens** will be December 6th.



Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year! With leap-years in consideration, Christmas Eve falls on Sunday once every 9-11 years. This year, it lands on Sunday.

New Spirit’s Worship Schedule for December 24th will be: 10:00 a.m. Arise to Praise Communion Service. The Praise Team will lead that worship weaving the 4th Sunday of Advent, and Christmas Eve together with traditional carols and new carols as well. 7:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. Traditional carols, familiar readings, and candlelight will highlight the promise given to Mary by God’s angel, Gabriel. We will venture to Bethlehem with shepherds, and sing “Gloria in excelsis” with the angels.

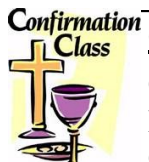


The Annual Congregational Meeting of New Spirit Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, December 10th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** The agenda will include elections of Church Council Members, Memorial Garden & Columbarium Board members and Endowment Board Members. Appointments to the Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, and Charter Ministry Teams will be completed as well. Conversations on the Proposed Venture Budget will be held, in relationship to the pledges received on November 5th.

All confirmed, communing, contributing members of New Spirit are expected to participate in the Annual Meeting. The Constitution of the Congregation states that members are to have received Holy Communion, and given financial support for the operation of the church. Records of both are kept in the church office.

Following the Annual Meeting you are invited to a **Chili and Cornbread Fund-Raising Supper** prepared by the Youth Group who will be traveling to Houston for the **ELCA National Youth Gathering** in June. This will be a Thrivent event. Funds raised by the Dinner will help defray the costs for airfare, hotel, and food expenses for the participants. The youth's parents are paying their registration fees (\$395/each) and New Spirit will support those funds through the Chili Dinner, and an Easter Breakfast in April.

2018 Mission and Goals The Church Council was tasked by president Brigitte Stuetze to identify personal and missional goals for New Spirit for 2018. Considering Pastor Alan's call to focus each month on one of the three facets of the New Spirit Mission Statement, we invite you to communicate Church goals that might appeal to you. How might considering "Our Faith is in Jesus" lead to tangible goals, like creation of new small groups, or neighborhood home studies, or creating a prayer-group in 2018? Consider the same for "Our Hope is in Grace", and "Our Strength is in Love." What is the Spirit of God speaking to you as you consider your role as a "living stone" in the Body of Christ, New Spirit Lutheran Church?



Confirmation Update: The Creed

Our confirmation students are beginning a study of the Apostles Creed, with the help of Martin Luther's take on who God is, and our faithful understanding of how we experience God in daily life. Our Old Testament heroes study continues with a kid....by the name of Samuel.

October was a great SUPPER month! Thanks to the October cook team, who prepared Wednesday suppers through the month. We had great BBQ Ribs, amazing Smoked Brisket, delicious Pulled Pork, and ended the month with Brats & Beer. Thanks to the October cook team: Sharon & Ken Dobbs, Terry Wolfe, Carol Debis - Harrell.



Did you know the Church Council is scheduled to go on RETREAT in January at the St. David, AZ retreat center??? Wanna come, too???
"The Spirit speaks in that place."



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Our team is privileged to be accepted as part of the 2017 Jim Click Raffle "Millions for Tucson". We are selling tickets for a chance to win a 2017 Ford Explorer Platinum. All of the proceeds from our ticket sales will go into our Blessings in a Backpack fund. Contact Laurie Bernard, Cathy Cermak or any team member for more information.



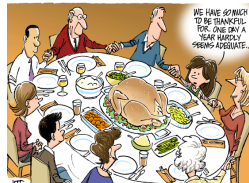
We were privileged to have Tucson's Mayor Rothschild on September 28th for Mayor's Packing Day. Also in attendance were representative from our schools, other snack pack organizations, Southern Arizona Community Food Bank, and Arizona Association of School Business Officials (they donated 750 snack packs earlier this year!).

God is working through New Spirit and making a difference in our community and the lives of 222 children and their families.

For regular contributions, 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.**

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*



HOMELESS THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

Thursday, November 23rd

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

ARIZONA BEER HOUSE

150 S. Kolb Road

Please help us to distribute a holiday meal

Sign-up sheets on metal board in Narthex to share a dish and deliver to Arizona Beer House at 10:30 am on Thanksgiving Day

For information, contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at 886-3242 or lbernard2008@hotmail.com



HOMELESS BLESSINGS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH 1-3 P.M.
THANK YOU MAYOR ROTHSCHILD
FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION!!!

Want to help? Contact NSLC Office or
Laurie Bernard at 886-3242 or lbernard2008@hotmail.com

PLEASE DONATE:
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING
SHOES AND SOCKS
AA AND AAA BATTERIES
TOWELS AND WASHCLOTHS
FULL SIZE SHAMPOO, LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT
RAZORS, COMBS, BRUSHES
PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED MEATS
PROTEIN DRINKS

K-Hall update – In September the Pima County health inspectors came to the ICS/New Spirit Food Bank.
The report noted some areas of concern. One concern was with the carpet in the Food Bank/Medical Loan Chest room. In response to that concern the carpet was removed thanks to **Ken Dobbs, John Lukehart, Daniel Stoltzfus (ICS CEO), and Tim Kromer (an ICS volunteer)**. Wooden food shelves were painted. A commercial freezer was purchased to replace an old, donated home refrigerator.



November Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



11/01 Joel Carty

11/04 Cordelia Lundquist

11/07 Barbara Rebok

11/09 Mark Buglewicz
LaSandra Matthews

11/11 Edna Walton
Cathy Cermak

11/12 Craig Geiger

11/14 Caitlyn Friend

11/18 Virginia Gearheart

11/20 Nikole Garibay
Sharon Wedmeier

11/25 Barbara Carty

11/26 Victor & Cori Garibay
(Anniversary)

This Changes Everything – Title of national youth gathering 2018



Change for chili/cornbread – Follow these directions!!

Find a container

1. Put your leftover change in it at the end of the day.
2. December 9th turn your change into bills
3. December 10th bring your \$\$\$ to the annual meeting
4. Put your change in the basket and eat chili and cornbread
5. Help with serving
6. Know that your \$\$\$ will help send the youth to the National Youth Gathering in Houston in June 2018
7. Archie Burke is doing a Thrivent Action Team to help support this event.

Deborah's Gathering

We will be meeting at 3:00pm Wednesday, November 8th (note the earlier time) so we can make Christmas cards for the women who are unable to attend church. Please join us for this event even if you have not been a part of Deborah's Gathering Bible study.

Our study for October was on the Apostles Creed – I believe in Jesus Christ! Discussion centered around the titles we give to Jesus – Son of God, Christ, Lord, Brother, Savior, Teacher, Healer, Human and Messiah. Which one do you use the most?

We thanked the Sunday School teachers and students for the pretty and useful markers that they made for our hymnals.

All women are welcome to join us at 3:00pm on November 8th and then go to the Wednesday night supper.

November servers are: Devotion – Sandra Colwell, Lesson Leader – Marilyn Linderkamp, and Music Leaders – Sandy Cooper and Gloria Burke.

Please continue to save the box tops for education coupons that go to the Navajo Mission School in Rock Point, AZ. Save the tabs from the aluminum cans for Ronald McDonald house. The cans go to the New Spirit Youth fund. Put the tabs and box top coupons in the proper drawer in the Narthex. There is also a drawer for plastic bottle tops of all kinds that go to Mexico and 1,000 get a cancer treatment for a child.

Gloria Burke, Secretary

Grace Notes Handbell/Chime Choir

We welcome Robin Hughes and Shelley Colwell to the Bell Choir. Note if you want to help us fill the 2 empty spaces, come to practice on Monday nights @ 6:15. We have an opening in the bass section and that is the easiest bell in the choir to ring. Remember we use color codes so you don't have to read music to start. A bell choir needs all ringers to make an instrument. Unlike singing choir or a band, there aren't other people to do a note so if someone is absent that note does not sound.

Come and Praise God with ringing!

Questions? Call Gloria Burke @ 520-296-7834

Daily Devotional Practice

AND SO THE
Adventure
BEGINS

As we near the end of a year of spiritual adventures and challenges, you may have noticed that we've begun talking about traditional faith practices. Last month, Renee Geiger wrote about prayer. This month's challenge is devotional practice.

Now I suspect many of you, like I, have followed a regular devotional practice for years. Mine started very simply – 10 to 15 minutes a day with Christ in Our Home, the small devotional booklet the church provides. These short devotions include a brief scriptural passage and inspirational reflection related to the passage. Over time, I hungered for more and would search for longer, deeper resources. I started to do special readings and studies during Lent, then eventually Advent, too. These have become special seasons that I look forward to.

When I was still working full-time, I generally read right before turning off the light to go to sleep. Now I try to start my day with spiritual readings. For a number of years I have taken notes in a journal, quoting passages I want to remember and my thoughts and reflections. I am convinced that my faith, my assurance of God's love, and my trust and love of God would not have grown without a regular devotional practice.

Now I have to confess that there are days that I let busy-ness take over, and I hit the ground running without allowing time for devotions. I end up catching up a couple days' of reading. I miss this quiet time with God and feel resentful of the many things that I've let disrupt it – my choice, though! So I have to re-commit myself to setting time aside for this important, life-giving practice, knowing it is the best way to start my day.

For those of you who have never had a devotional practice, I encourage you to give it a try and see how your faith will grow. An easy way to start is taking 10 minutes a day to read Christ in Our Home and spend a few minutes in prayer afterwards. Modeling this discipline is especially important for parents. Whether it's in the morning over breakfast, after dinner or right before bedtime, what an awesome gift for children to be able to participate in daily spiritual readings and prayers with their parents!

For those of you who have practiced daily devotions for years, perhaps it's time to take it up a notch. Dig deeper, keep a journal if you've never done so, and/or share what you've read and your thoughts about it with a friend or family member.

Cathy Cermak



Thank you to the October Workday Workers: Ken Dobbs, Don Crow, Shelli and Sandra Colwell, Don and Maxine Nibbe, Terry Wolfe, Sarah Drath, Michael Bromeland, and Mark Roberts and Archie Burke.

Thank you to the Breakfast Cook Crew - Sharon Dobbs, Darlene Paape, Bich Francis, and Ellie Thompson.

November Workday will be Saturday, November 18th. There's always work that needs to get done.

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT- Don Austin & Steve Lamb our Sunday Tech's

SHOUT OUT - October's Wednesday Super Team

SHOUT OUT - Sandra & Shelley Colwell for leading Sunday School

SHOUT OUT - Karen Colwell for picking up vegetables for the food bank each week

SHOUT OUT - Blessings in a Backpack shoppers, packers, and those that deliver.

SHOUT OUT - Homeless Blessings group

SHOUT OUT - Amber Jindrick and Walgreens for the free flu shots.

SHOUT OUT - Sunday School children for making the book marks for the red hymnals



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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