

# That's The Spirit!

Rev. Alan Field

New Spirit Lutheran Church

September 2017

*Our faith is in Jesus.*

*Our hope is in grace.*

*Our strength is in love.*

Dear Partners in Mission,

Nine months into the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, is there a lesson that we might learn? The movement that Brother Martin started began by addressing areas of the Church's ministry that were not in concert with the message of the Gospel. In 1,500 years, the Church had become very complacent, in style, content, and form. Luther, a college professor, was frustrated by his congregation's distance from the life changing power of God's grace. Initially, he trusted other priests to open the Word to the hearts and minds of the people. That didn't work. In 1527, after riding a circuit of parishes around Germany he discovered a vast lack of both education about matters holy and a lack of consistency in what was being preached and taught. That led to Martin's writing, and publishing of the Small Catechism, and the Large Catechism. A vital aspect of the Reformation movement was the improvement of the working faith and life of congregation members.

How can we do this better? That is a question I have been asking for the past six or eight months. How can we do the work of ministry better? In the Praise Team, when we commit to learn a new song, we work hard to find a good key for the song to be sung by the congregation. Often times that means that we will lower the key from "E" to "D" or even "C". The result is not only singing in a comfortable range, but also minimizing the loss of voices when the melody goes too high. That little shift enables everyone the opportunity to sing, full voiced, in praise to God.

Imagine how simpler hymns might be sung if the key was lowered one or two full steps? And there's more! Imagine how much we could get done, in telling New Spirit's story if four or five people took on a two-month project to develop New Spirit's unique story! We do an incredible ministry here, but most people outside these walls have never heard it. Imagine, if you could tell the story briefly and confidently!

Imagine if you committed this program year, to attend a Bible Study to deepen your faith. And imagine how your faith might sound if you gave wings to Jesus' question of the disciples in the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew read a couple weeks ago. "Who do people say that I am? And "Who do you say that I am?" Do your children know your answer to who Jesus is to you? Do your grand children know your answer to who Jesus is to you? How could we do that better?

Luther taught that the primary teaching place of faith, and life in Christ Jesus is in the home. The Catechism was written to enable a mom and a dad to give life to their faith, and thus pass the faith on to their children. That passing on of the faith is the only guarantee that the church will live into the second half of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Imagine if moms and dads, along with their kiddos took ten minutes each night talking about "where you saw God today" and then praying together for God to awaken their desires for a first-hand experience of the Spirit within them.

I mentioned last month, that as our culture continues its secular drift that Sunday School would serve to be the "canary in the gold mine." The canary was a sacrificial animal, whose very breath would be taken in the presence of poisonous gases in the tunnels.

In 2017, I believe our canary is clearly seated in the generation of parents. Can mom and dad confidently speak of God's role in their daily life? Can mom and dad confidently guide the family to nightly devotions from the Bible, and can they find Paul's epistles, or the Psalms, or one of the minor prophets?

Studies have shown that children who have faith conversations with their parents on a regular basis are far more empathetic, willing to help, and resistant to school-aged pranks like bullying. Ten minutes each night. Imagine what can be learned in that short period of time!

How can we do this better? If you are a senior, you are not excused from going deep and wide. In fact, with just one brief connection with a friend or family member each week, the odds of you becoming clouded by despair is lessened by more than 60%. With whom do you talk about your faith in God and Jesus Christ?

I believe if every one of us committed ourselves to that nightly ten minute study, prayer, sharing time, that the life of ministry at New Spirit would take off in exciting new ways.

Summer is church shopping season. You have had the opportunity to meet 30-40 new families, couples, and individuals who have worshipped with us since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Imagine if you took that next scary step to invite that new friend back. Imagine if you told your story of God's presence inviting you into new relationships. Imagine if you told one long-time friend of an experience you have had with the pure grace of God. Imagine! How could we do all of this, better?

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Alan

Letter  
from our  
Pastor



**Reformation Sunday is October 29<sup>th</sup>.** Worship that day will lift up the legacy of the Reformation, and focus on the “new understandings of old things” that Martin Luther used in his defense of changing/reforming the church. Red is the color of the day. Grace will be our focus. How might you bring a spirit of joy to that celebration?



**TRUNK**  
or  
*Treat*

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### Wednesday Suppers and Classes

**Wednesday evening suppers and classes** will begin on **September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30**. The Cook Teams met on August 20<sup>th</sup>, and teams have been assigned months of service, and they are preparing menus for all to enjoy. We need four more persons to create a fourth cook team. If you would like to share in the nurturing blessing of preparing food, please contact Cathy Cermak or Pastor Alan. Meatloaf seems to be a popular supper option .



We are planning three education opportunities. **Darkwood Brew** is returning, and will be featured in the Sanctuary. These video/discussion series are thought provoking and insightful.

**A book study** will engage participants as they consider an issue of faithful living and applications.

**“If I’m Supposed to be Happy, Why Do Little Things TICK ME OFF?”** It has been a couple years since Pastor Alan led his 5-week look at the problem of anger. We have a number of new members, and others who have not taken the class. It is a unique, practical, challenging, and very personal look at how to dismantle anger in your life. You can live without getting ticked off in a heartbeat! Let Pastor Alan help you see how life can be a whole lot calmer, and much less stressful.



**God’s Work- Our Hands** is a church-wide event where members of congregations across America do God’s Work helping others. September 10<sup>th</sup> is GWOH’s official day, but we are going to designate **Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> as New Spirit’s God’s Work-Our Hands Day**.

We will be preparing the student raised bed gardens at Erickson Elementary School. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at New Spirit and caravan to Erickson. Erickson is one of our “Blessings in a Backpack” schools.

Please wear your **YELLOW God’s Work Our Hands t-shirts**, and bring tools, and seed packets or bedding plants for the children to plant on the following Monday.

### Ministry Fair will be celebrated on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 in Fellowship Hall**.

The Ministry Faire will seek to have you volunteer to help with specific areas of ministry. Every member is a part of the Body, and every part is needed. But, if an ear stops hearing, or an eye stops seeing, or the big toe was absent (big toes are balancers for our bodies) life would be difficult at best. But, where every member, every part does what it was designed to do, the body functions with ease, confidence and joy. What part were you created to be at New Spirit?



### **Worship Schedule - return to two services on September 17<sup>th</sup>**

This Summer we have committed ourselves to learning **Setting 8** in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. Beginning September 17<sup>th</sup> we will turn to **Setting 4** in the ELW. It should be a familiar setting for most of you. We will use the Fall months to use the familiar liturgical setting so that we can introduce a number of new hymns for the congregation to learn. Ought to be a great Fall.

**The Praise Team** is looking forward to introducing a number of new songs this Fall as well. We have songs written by Renee Geiger, Harry Bolin, Mercy Me, and a couple vintage rock ‘n roll/soul pieces that will probably be very familiar to many of you.

If you play an instrument, and/or if you sing, you are welcome to step into the Praise Team, and help us lead worship each week. We particularly need male voices to give depth to the Team’s sound. If you’d like a place on the Team, please talk with Mark Buglewicz.



## Women's Fellowship

**WOMEN**--Join us at the First Deborah's Gathering for this year on Wednesday, September 13th in Rm. 105 at 3 p.m. for Music, Devotion, Bible Study and good discussions. We meet at this time so that when Wed. night dinners start, women can go directly to the dinners. September, October and November will be the refreshing study of The Apostle's Creed which is a part of our prayer life, our welcome liturgy and our teaching too. It connects us through our Faith. We use GATHER, the magazine of the Women of the ELCA. It is a

WINNER. Along with Cafe, the publication for young women, it was honored to win a total work of 11 awards for their work in 2016. This was from the Associated Church Press and the Religion Communicators Council. ACP gave the awards for Best in Class Magazine cover in Sept. Bible references, Biblical Interpretation, Humor, and Devotional/Inspiration. RCC awards were for feature writing and public relations. You can find back issues and subscription cards on the Welcome table or the shelf in the Narthex. The Gathering sends handmade cards several times a year to women who are unable to come to the meetings. In addition we support projects in other countries, the Navajo mission in Arizona, local and New Spirit. If you need more information, contact Joyce Dow at 312-2001 or Gloria Burke at 296-7834

**ITEMS TO SAVE** and put in containers in the cupboard below the counter in the Narthex. Box tops for Education-they are sent to the Navajo Mission School; Pull tabs from aluminum cans for Ronald McDonald House-give the cans to the Youth at New Spirit for their projects. Plastic caps from bottles-they go to Immanuel Presbyterian and then to Mexico. Every 1,000 gets a free cancer treatment for a child.

**TALENTS**- Are you using all of your God given talents? Do you like music? Ministry Fair Day check out the Handbell/chime music Ministry. Talk with some of the ringers about how they started ringing without being able to read music! Ringing is another way to praise God. We always need more ringers. Questions-call Gloria Burke -296-7834

I would like to thank the many people who sent cards and prayers to my family after the passing of my son, Michael Hansen. And thank you to the ladies who set up the lovely luncheon after the service. A special thanks to Pastor Alan who led both the military and the church services. My very special thanks to the members of the Praise Team, some of whom had to take off from work, for the very meaningful music, Michael would have been pleased as he loved your music. I am so very grateful to each and every one of you. My love, thanks and prayers to you.

Marlene Hansen



Thank you for all the cards and thoughts and prayers when my sister died. It's such a blessing to have church family for support.

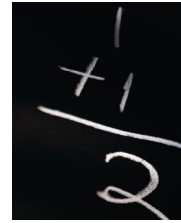
Sharon Dobbs



I want to give a special thanks to Linda and Steve Lamb for taking me to urgent care and TMC emergency room when I fell on a cement driveway Face First! Also to all who called or sent encouraging messages. What a blessing to belong to a church with such caring and loving people.

God Bless you all,

Ellie Thompson



### Look How Far We Have Come

“New Spirit Lutheran Church is partnering with **BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK** to sponsor 30 children from Steele Elementary School located at 700 S. Sarnoff for the 2012-2013 school year. This unique program is designed to feed elementary school children whose families qualify for the Federal Free/Reduced Price Meal Program and have little or no food on the weekends.

Meet the members of the team!

Carol Lowe; Donna Mysak; Marilyn Roberts; Karen Robinson, June Sewell; Joyce Dow; and Cathy Cermak. We will be purchasing menu items at reduced rates from Walmart and packing the backpacks for delivery to Steele Elementary so the children can take them home on Fridays.

To date, we have collected \$470 – enough to add another 5 children to the program! If 10 people give only \$8, that’s enough to feed one child for the school year, so tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers about this wonderful ministry.”

This was our first newsletter in 2012. How times have changed. We now feed 222 children at 4 eastside elementary schools. Our team has grown to 20 volunteers. The cost of feeding a child each weekend during the school year is only \$100. We still need your support to continue this wonderful ministry. You can help us feed the future of America.

Please turn in your commitment contribution (made out to Blessings in a Backpack with “Steele Elementary” on the memo line) to any team member or to the New Spirit office or you can place it in the weekly offering. Together we can make a difference.

### ***BECAUSE HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A BREAK ON WEEKENDS***

Contact any of our team members or our program coordinator, Laurie Bernard, at [lbernard2008@hotmail.com](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com) or 886-3242 to learn how you can help. Questions? Go to [www.blessingsinabackpack.org](http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org) to find out more.



## **September Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations**



09/01 Paul Walton

09/09 Cekai Maple

09/19 Renee Geiger

09/03 Bruce & Sarah Drath  
(anniversary)

09/11 Archie Burke

09/26 Kimberli Crace,  
Barbara Wadler,  
Amber Crace

09/05 John Lukeart,  
Carol Westover

09/15 Paul & Becky Hedstrom  
(anniversary)

09/27 Harry Hayes, Barb Verthein

09/07 Dean Crace, Pat Kelly

09/18 Susan Armstrong,  
Betty Ruckert

09/30 Wayne Stephens,  
Carol Lukeart





## HOMELESS BLESSINGS

How we wish this could happen. For now, it takes people like us to make a difference in the lives of the homeless. During our event on August 12<sup>th</sup>, we not only passed out the usual hygiene products, tarps, backpacks, batteries, clothing, shoes, and food, we had several visitors dedicated to helping our clients.

Mitch Kagen from the Office of the Independent Police Auditor talked with several people about their concerns with the police. James Carter and Caroline Shive from Old Pueblo Community Services consulted with clients and several are closer to obtaining housing. We will continue to have community service representatives at our events so that we can help people change their living situations. Do you know someone in social services? Please let us know so we can invite them to our next event on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your donations and support. Questions? Contact the New Spirit office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

### The Search for a Synod Bishop

As many of you know, Bishop Steve Talmage resigned a year early to take the call as Pastor of Love of Christ Church in East Mesa. Rev. Lowell Almen, former Secretary of the ELCA, has been named our interim-Bishop. Rev. Almen will be meeting with Tucson clergy and congregational leaders to discuss our perception of the needs of the Grand Canyon Synod. That meeting in Tucson will be **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9-11 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church** near the UofA campus. Council officers are encouraged to attend. If you'd like to attend, space is limited, please talk with Brigitte Stuetze.

### Planting a Seed....

This year, **Christmas Eve** will be on Sunday. How shall we use that day for our preparation for the birth of our Lord?

1. We could have our regular two-service schedule, and two candlelight services that evening.
2. We could have one morning service, and two candlelight services.
3. We could have one morning service, and one candlelight service.

We do know that many people will not attend worship twice on that day.

If you have ideas about Christmas Eve, why not let the Worship and Music Team hear your ideas.

### New Tables arrive in Fellowship Hall!

We have bought ten new tables for Fellowship Hall. The five-foot diameter tables will be able to seat 6-8 people to enhance conversations, better than the 3'6" tables that we have used, just big enough for four. If you'd like to help with paying for the "Table Project" we will throw in one of the smaller white tables for you to take home. The 5' tables cost \$179 a piece.

## September Adventure

### Pay it Forward

AND SO THE  
*Adventure*  
BEGINS

The Spiritual Adventure theme for September is Pay it Forward. You may be familiar with this term and have heard poignant stories in the media and perhaps experienced this as benefactors or beneficiaries in your own life. Paying it forward is when the beneficiary of a favor, good deed, or particular kindness repays it to others (forward), instead of to the original benefactor.

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Many of us saw the movie, “Pay it Forward,” with Kevin Spacey and Helen Hunt, or possibly read the book written by Catherine Ryan Hyde. The story is about a 12-year-old boy who comes up with a social program where the recipient of a favor does a favor for three other people and asks them each to do favors for three more people, etc. The favors must be significant, something the recipients cannot do on their own. What the boy starts, simply by responding to his social studies teacher’s assignment, is nothing short of a social movement. Paying it forward, in a three to one ratio, creates an exponential ripple effect of kindness, which indeed, makes the world a better place.

Apparently the concept is not new to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It can be traced back at least as far as ancient Greece (317 B.C.) in a play called “Dyskolos” (translated “The Grouch”). It can be found in the writings of Benjamin Franklin, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, and many others. Paying it forward is a foundational step in Alcoholics Anonymous, where recovering alcoholics are encouraged to help someone else with their sobriety.

Lily Hardy Hammond, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century writer, wrote that we can never pay our parents or the people who raised us back the love and care they gave us; we can only do the same for our children, who will do likewise for their children. In other words, *you pay love forward*. Ironically, given our current troubled times, Hammond was a part of a progressive, activist movement within the Christian church called the Social Gospel Movement. This movement confronted southern Christians about racism, sexism and other injustices. The movement was concerned with the salvation of society, rather than the salvation/conversion of individuals. Advocates believed that creating a peaceful and just world would bring about the Kingdom of God. Hmmm

So why pay it forward? Why not just pay someone back? Well, frankly, **sometimes you simply can’t pay someone back** for the kindness, sacrifice or love they gave you. In Ray Bradbury’s Dandelion Wine, the protagonist observes that he cannot pay back the kindnesses he received from another, that the best thing he can do is pass it on to someone else and ***keep the chain moving***.

You’ve probably guessed where I’m going with this. It’s very clear that we can never, never, ***never*** pay God back for the love, grace, mercy, and gift of life we receive every moment of every day. And God doesn’t expect us to. That’s why these things are ***GIFTS!*** They have been there from the beginning of our lives, waiting for us to simply open our hands and hearts and receive them. Jesus came to show us the way to pay it forward. The Gospel is full of examples of his paying it forward with love, forgiveness and healing. So we simply need to remember that, and yes, show others (even complete strangers) love, kindness and help – every day. You are a link in the chain of love and kindness that we need to keep moving forward. So this month we challenge you to be mindful of passing on love, kindness and mercy, and pay it forward exponentially.

### McKnight Brain Aging Registry Study

The Psychology Department at UofA is doing a study on aging brains.

Participants need to be: 85 years or older, in good health, with no signs of dementia.

Study will include three on-campus sessions, 2-3 hours each. Included will be an MRI, behavioral inventory, and a physical activity monitor. Blood or saliva test will be given.

Participants will be compensated. Contact info: 626-0386

You can begin the study immediately, and it will last three weeks.

# New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

## Shout-Outs

***SHOUT OUT-** Monsoon Weed Madness work crew.*

***SHOUT OUT -** Workday breakfast cooks.*

***SHOUT OUT -** Summer Fellowship Teams.*

***SHOUT OUT -** Craig & Renee Geiger and Cathy Cermak for each month's Spiritual Adventures*

***SHOUT OUT -** Food Bank Volunteers*

***SHOUT OUT -** Terry Wolfe prepping handicap parking signs in North parking lot.*

***SHOUT OUT -** Don Austin, Steve Lamb for your tech responsibilities.*



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  
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