

That's The Spirit!

New Spirit Lutheran Church

Our faith is in Jesus.

Our hope is in grace.

Our strength is in love.

Rev. Alan Field

April 2019

Dear Partners on the Trail

It is late this year. It is almost as late as it possibly can be. Easter that is. April 21st is three weeks later than last year. Still, we will gather around the focal point of the entire Christian faith: Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified has risen to new life. We are all about new life, new hope and a new spirit!

With the newness that is such a part of the Easter proclamation, I want to invite you into a different way to step into Easter. For several years the Sunrise Service on the patio has declined in attendance. Where we once gathered 50, or more, strong, last year 17 people gathered.

So, this year I would like to invite New Spirit to do something different. An ancient service of worship leading up to the Easter proclamation is known as the Easter Vigil. The Vigil tells the story of Creation, and the key moments of God's redemptive history which led to Jesus' crucifixion on Calvary. In some corners of the Church, the Vigil is held on Saturday evening, as darkness comes. At midnight, baptismal candidates were baptized and raised from the waters just as Christ Jesus was raised from the dead.

I don't want you to be out late on Easter Eve, but I would like us to gather at 6:00 p.m. for the Easter Vigil. The service will include readings from Scripture of God's redeeming work throughout the Old Testament. I believe this service will enable you to enter Easter with a hope-filled heart and a word of celebration on your lips. Let's try this, this year, and you can experience this slightly different approach to the same good news.

Easter morning, then, we will celebrate the Resurrection at 9:00 and 11:00. The Youth will be serving Easter Breakfast from 8:00 until 10:30 in Fellowship Hall. This will be a Thrivent Action Team event, and a fund raiser for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June, 2021. We have a great group of youth, and your support of them in their faith journey will be an amazing gift.

For the most part, all of our youth grew up here at New Spirit. They have all experienced SALCA Camp, and three of them attended the Gathering in Houston last year and will be within the age bracket to attend Minneapolis as well! These are great kids, and I wish we could give them a great youth group experience. If you have sensed a call from God to nurture and encourage youth, please talk with me!

As we continue the Lenten journey, I encourage you to have "a talk" at home about how your faith has come to the place that it is today. Take the big step to tell your kids, or tell your spouse, or tell your best friend who Jesus is to you, and why you have chosen to follow Him. You may find that experience to be uplifting and freeing.

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Alan





Midweek Lenten Services have been focusing on the “Chain of Power and Hope”. This six week program identifies six links in a chain, while understanding a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Each link has a strong aspect, and a weak one. To date these are the links we have identified: **REMEMBER/forget, CONFIDENCE/fear, ENTHUSIASM/boredom, ACTION/inaction.**

Holy Week is April 14 -21

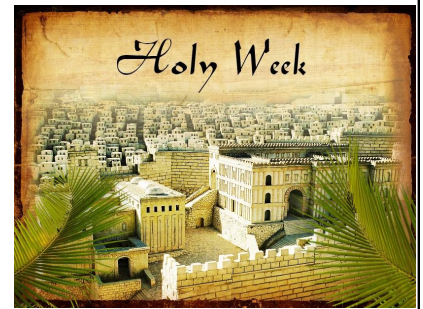
Palm Sunday we will join together to welcome the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Be part of the Hosanna chorus! Look forward to our “mighty good leader!”

Maundy Thursday we will gather around the Lord’s Supper. The drama of the Passion will hit full speed as this communion service comes to an end. It is the word of Jesus that calls each of us to be servants, as well as faithful followers.

Good Friday we will gather at 7:00 p.m. to recount Jesus’ arrest, trial, scourging, crucifixion and burial.

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) we will gather at 6:00 p.m. to recall the pivotal times in Old Testament history that led to the Incarnation of Jesus to redeem this broken world.

Easter Sunday we will join in song and praise at 9:00 and 11:00 to celebrate the ultimate promise of New Life, New Hope and a New Spirit! Consider inviting your best friends. Consider committing to bring the grandkids, the neighbor kids, your grown kids. Let the people come to celebrate the Lord Jesus!!!



Wednesdays after Easter.....there are three Wednesdays after Easter until the 2nd Wednesday of May which is when we stop dinners and classes for the Summer. If you have a study, or class you’d like to lead, or attend, please let Nancy in the office know.

A special thank you for all the extra help we received with the recent memorial services.
From Ellie, Darlene and Bich.

THANKS
FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT!

Summer Worship is coming! For the past five Summers we have been having one service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. This year, we will begin the Summer Schedule on Mother’s Day, May 12th. We are excited to inform you that this Summer we will be offering three styles of worship. We will begin on the 12th with Traditions. Then Arise to Praise. During the summer there will be four Sundays that we are going to try a fully digital worship. We will be using video clips, classic hymns, and contemporary songs with lyrics, in addition to the assigned readings for each Sunday, sermon, and Holy Communion. The digital worship Sundays allows for the fact that musicians and singers tend to travel during the summer months. We will see how it goes.



The trendy word these days is “algorithm” and we will be using a new one this Summer. In the past the “algorithm” we followed was two weeks on, two weeks off. But, this Summer the schedule will not be that simple. We, therefore, invite you to plan to worship every Sunday, and join the Body of Christ at the Lord’s Supper each week. In all things we are being made new. It’s a Christian-thing.



Sign up
for
Church
Camp!

SALCA Camp is May 27-31st at **Triangle Y Ranch Camp** in Oracle, Arizona. **“Be Brave and Courageous”** is the theme from the Old Testament book of Joshua. Camp is one of the most influential experiences a child can have in their faith development. New Spirit encourages all of our children who have completed 3rd grade – 8th grade by May 27th to attend. A number of our youth are planning on being LIT’s (Leaders in Training) so that next Summer they will be cabin leaders. Camp is a great opportunity and every New Spirit child and youth should be encouraged to register. Registration info is available at www.mysalca.com. New Spirit will cover half the cost of camp for all children. Additional assistance will be available if the need exists. Thank you, in advance.

Wedding Blessing on Sunday, May 26th. Pastor Alan and Bishop Deborah Hutterer are being married on May 23rd in Phoenix. On Sunday, May 26th, you are invited to a celebration and blessing of the couple at worship that morning. Following the service there will be a reception for Bishop Hutterer and Pastor Alan in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to honor Pastor Alan and Bishop Deborah’s marriage you are welcome to make a donation to one of the following in their names:

ELCA Disaster Response Fund (for fires and floods),
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (for family reunification funding),
WELCA- Grand Canyon Synod, or
Grand Canyon Synod (leaders’ fund).
Thank you.



Food Bank Vegetable & Bread Distribution is scheduled for **Saturday, April 6th from 10:00-1:00**. The food stores at the Food Bank are low. Food Banks are supported by federal grants. Cuts in domestic funding for the poor and food insecure are having effects on community food banks. For the past two months, what the Food Bank has sent us has been limited. That is because the Food Bank has less and less to give to people in need. It is a legislative issue. If you’d like to be a Lutheran advocate for the poor of Tucson, write a letter (worth 100 phone calls) to your state and national congress members. Remind them of the reality of food-insecurity in Southern Arizona due to legislative cuts.

**GET
INVOLVED!**

In Memory.....

Over the past three months death has come close by to New Spirit.

Sue Gilmore died of the cancer she had fought valiantly for 15 years. Sue was very involved in the Women’s Ministry not only at New Spirit, but she served as the President of the Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA. She was involved in many areas of New Spirit’s ministry for many years. She will surely be missed by many.

Margaret Benson died in early March following declining health for the past three years. Margaret was the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, and she married a Lutheran pastor Harry Benson. They served Shepherd of the Hills in Flagstaff, where they also expanded their home to create Shepherd’s House for at-risk teens. After their retirement they moved to Arizona City. When Harry died in 2001, Margaret moved to Fellowship Square, and joined New Spirit. She was a woman of deep faith and gentle grace.

Betty Ruckert died in March as well after declining health. Betty had worked as the personal assistant to the Vice President of General Dynamics, now Raytheon, until a surgery mishap during open-heart surgery. She joined New Spirit in 2004 where she shared her keen, yet dry, sense of humor with everyone. Betty was deeply faithful and loved New Spirit. She especially loved Advent, and that season of waiting and preparation. We have been blessed by the faithful witness of all three women of faith.



Deborah's Gathering WELCA Bible Study Group met on March 13, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

A fun time was had by all as we learned how to play the hand chimes. Thank you to Gloria for teaching and leading the group in playing a few songs.

Sandy and Gloria led the group in singing the hymn "Will You Come and Follow Me".

Sandy led devotions – Just as a porch light may be left on as a warm and welcoming sign; Jesus says "I am the Light of the World".

February 2019 minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Sunshine Report – Valentine cards were sent to the youth in confirmation; one was returned. A few thinking of you/get well cards will be sent this month. The group will be making Easter cards at our meeting next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Five members attended the Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference, March 2, 2019, in Green Valley. Our group was well received as we presented the devotions in a light hearted as well as heart felt way.

There has been no report back from the church council concerning our church outreach work project suggestions.

Joyce will check with the church council on the status of our suggested paint project with the youth.

NEW BUSINESS:

Everyone has received the Lent Devotional Booklet for 2019. This year's devotions focus on the Psalms for every Sunday during lent.

A donation of \$200.00 was given to our memorial fund from Sue Gilmore's estate.

Sadly, the Church Women United (CWU) chapter will be closing and having their last gathering in May.

Joyce will inquire if the least coin project will continue to be ongoing. If not, we will continue to collect and use our least coin donations for other projects.

It was suggested that a section of the magnetic bulletin board be set aside to highlight our church youth.

Sandra will check with Nancy on the needed procedure.

Sandra will check with the Sunday School if our group could be of any assistance with their Mother's Day Brunch.

Bring suggestions to our next meeting on how we can get others interested in attending our meetings, such as hosting a tea party with a short bible study.

Our next meeting will be held on April 10, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 105. Sandra will lead us in devotions; Sandy will do the music; and Joyce will lead the lesson. Please join us!

Linda Lamb, Secretary



April Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



4/1 Katie Uidenich	4/14 Deb Klink	4/21 Altaira Garibay Marie Halver Shereen O'Connor
4/8 Victor Garibay, Jr.	4/17 Ron O'Connor James West	4/23 Joselyn Uidenich
4/9 Joe Vohnoutka	4/19 Dorothy Hybarger	4/25 Jenny Kwapich
4/11 Henry Kwapich Barb Verthein (Anniversary)	4/20 Steve & Linda Lamb (Anniversary)	4/30 Ken Dobbs

Sunrise/Santa Cruz Units of the Grand Canyon WELCA met at Desert Hills in Green Valley in March.. New Spirit group chose to do a group presentation for the Devotion instead of just reading the bible passage. The material was written by Joyce Dow, Barbara Rebok and Gloria Burke. Linda Lamb and Ana Mackay also took part in the presentation. We read from golden rolled scrolls as in ancient times.

Our devotions scripture came from the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. Proverbs is a collection of wise teachings, intended for all people to use in their daily lives. Many of the writings are attributed to King Solomon. Proverbs 3 is from the group known as Wisdom sayings.

The conference theme was Proverbs 3-5: **TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND DO NOT RELY ON YOU OWN INSIGHT: IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS.**

We gave examples of things we might say, thinking we know best such as saying: Evening service starts at 7, but the movie I want to see is at 6:30.

If we listen to His voice, we might say something like – When Jane told me what Martha said about me, I was really upset. But, I prayed about it and that calmed me down and saved our friendship.

We looked at **WHEN, WHY, WHAT AND WHO** of **HIS WORD, FOLLOWING THE THEME VERSE!**

WHEN? God is ever present, especially in times of trouble to comfort, encourage, renew and sustain throughout life's celebrations and challenges and in time of distress. **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS TO HELP YOU DO YOUR WORK AS MY CHILD!**

WHY? From Jeremiah: **I KNEW YOU BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN YOUR MOTHER'S WOMB. YOU MUST GO WHEREVER I SEND YOU AND SAY WHATEVER I TELL YOU. DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE PEOPLE, FOR I WILL BE WITH YOU AND WILL PROTECT YOU.** GOD will never stop speaking into our hearts and souls!

WHAT? He is our shelter in times of trouble and He is always with us to encourage, comfort and renew us. Our hearts and minds need to be open to hear and to follow. Trust in Christ to teach, be open to the process and be guided by Him.

WHO? **WISDOM** is usually referred to as being female in gender. Happy are those who find wisdom and those who received understanding. Wisdom is more profitable than silver. Wisdom is the tree of life to those who lay hold to her. They are called Happy!

SO, GOD SPEAKS!! ARE WE LISTENING?

WHO-US! Listen to the words of the LORD.

WHEN-Always! Let your heart keep His commandments.

WHERE-Wherever we find ourselves. Write His words on the tablet of our hearts!

WHY-So you will find favor in the sight of God and He will make straight your paths! **YOUR LOVE OF GOD IS THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE, LET IT LIVE FULLY IN US THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN**



Landscape ideas and designers wanted!

The Building and Grounds Committee wants to update the strip of land just west of the parking lot off Old Spanish Trail. Low maintenance native plants will be used. Please provide any suggestions for plants and layout to Ken Dobbs, Don Crow or John Lukehart. Later, we may request help with the installation of the plants.



April Workday is April 20th Join us at 7:30 a.m. as we spruce up the place for Easter. We have lots of weeds to contend with, so your help would be greatly appreciated. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m.

The aluminum can donations for the Youth are greatly appreciated, however, there are bags that are being thrown over the wall and the gate. Please put any cans or bags of cans by the green recycle bin that is located by the kitchen or in Fellowship Hall. This way, no one has to crawl over all the plastic trash cans to get to the bags of cans in order to put them into the trash cans that will be transported to the Recycle Center. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Just a friendly reminder to make sure that lights get turned off. With Summer coming, please return the A/C thermostats to the schedule. If you are the last one in the building do a walk-thru to double check lights and A/C. The bathroom lights seem to get forgotten frequently. Your help is greatly appreciated.

WHAT AN AWESOME CHURCH WE ARE!

During the last 7 years, New Spirit has been moving towards a community outreach location with ICS and Community Food Bank, Medical Loan Chest, our Community Garden, Blessings in a Backpack, Homeless Blessings, Thanksgiving Dinner, Days of Caring, Deborah's Gathering's support of Ronald McDonald House and the Navajo Mission School in Mexico, Sunday School's comfort bags for children going through chemotherapy, our free tax site, and more. We work tirelessly to provide services for people going through hardships. Our church members give financial and moral support for our programs.

New Spirit can do even more to spread Jesus' love and mercy....with your help. It doesn't have to be physically challenging. You can write thank you notes and cards, make phone calls to shut-ins, answer phones, talk with people.

What are your God given talents? Learn them and use them. Find a team that shares your passions and start now.

JOIN US! FEEL THE JOY OF GIVING YOUR TIME. PUT A SMILE ON SOMEONE'S FACE. GIVE A HUG. SHARE THE LOVE. EVERY DAY.



Laurie Bernard, Church Council Member at Large



Macaroni and markers.

For a lot of kids, food is their most important school supply. Because when kids have enough food, they do better in school.

Donate \$10 and help provide food on the weekends for a child for a month.

For more information go to
www.blessingsinabackpack.org.



**BLESSINGS IN A
BACKPACK**

Who will feed the kids this weekend?



This school year, we are feeding **279** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

Your donation of \$100 feeds 1 child every weekend for the entire school year. **MAKE A GIFT TO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILD THIS YEAR.**

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.**

YOU CAN DESIGNATE OUR PROGRAM THROUGH YOUR FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM. A PERCENTAGE OF WHAT YOU SPEND ON GROCERIES CAN BE DONATED TO BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK. SIGN UP ONLINE OR IN YOUR LOCAL FRY'S STORE. OUR ACCOUNT NUMBER IS XL431. HELP FEED THE KIDS AS YOU FEED YOURSELF!

IF YOU ARE A THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING AN ACTION TEAM FOR BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK. WE WILL RECEIVE \$250 TO HELP TOWARD THIS MINISTRY.

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***



**OUR MINISTRY IS GROWING
WE SERVED OVER 100 DESERVING PEOPLE IN MARCH WITH OUR 2ND
SATURDAY EVENT AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS**

It's tough on the streets. For some, it's tough to keep a roof over their head. Their stories are heartbreaking. Mental health, alcohol, and drug issues are just part of the problem. These are also people who have just had a perfect storm of health, employment, and financial issues and now find themselves homeless or close to it.

Our event the 2nd Saturday of each month has representatives from Old Pueblo Community Services, City of Tucson, and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live. Our Wednesday night dinners give them a hot meal and a trip to our Blessings Room to get canned food and hygiene products. Sometimes, they come in and have just had all of their possessions stolen. During the recent extremely cold weather, we were able to provide emergency blankets, tarps, gloves and hats.

New Spirit's Homeless Blessings Team provides a hot meal, tarps, blankets, hats, gloves, coats and warm socks, 1-day bus passes, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products and clothing.

**PLEASE DONATE FOR THE WINTER:
MEN'S JEANS – ESPECIALLY 32-34 SIZES
BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS, WARM JACKETS
SHOES AND SOCKS**

IF YOU ARE A THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING AN ACTION TEAM FOR HOMELESS BLESSINGS. WE WILL RECEIVE \$250 TO HELP TOWARD THIS MINISTRY.

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.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MISSION

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

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710



SHOUT OUT - To the March hospitality team.

SHOUT OUT - To the March Wednesday cook team.

Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT - To everyone who came out for the extra workdays in March.

SHOUT OUT - To the volunteers who helped with the March vegetable distribution.

Please submit words of thanks and praise to Nancy at nancy@newspiritlutheran.com to be placed in the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

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, 4:00 & 6:15 pm
Classes

How to contact us:

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