

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 2020

Dear Partners on the Trail,

Who could have ever thought that Sunday morning worship in America could be brought to a halt well into the season of Lent, with the possibility of not holding worship for Holy Week or Easter? It is unthinkable, yet it is the situation we find ourselves in.

While COVID-19 has been in the news since November and December, it was called a hoax, a plot, and a fake-news matter. Well, that error has been proven wrong and the population has scrambled into frantic mode. We've not seen anything like this in decades.

Martin Luther faced a similar situation in the initial years of the Reformation. The black plague had made a reemergence, and people were dying. Luther called the church to listen to the medical professionals and to the scientific evidence. God would look out for the creation, but people needed to be wise in keeping their families and themselves safe.

That being said, in the midst of this health pandemic, people of faith need to continue to hold-fast to the Word of God. The promise of grace and mercy is in full effect, but that does not give permission to be foolish. Hygiene is essential. Hand-washing, serious and intentional is mandatory. Just do it. Hot water and soap. Train yourselves, encourage your children, grandchildren and grown-children. Stay out of crowds. Choose to isolate yourselves for this brief (in perspective) time period. The best way to alleviate this virus is to not make ourselves carriers. Period.

I am searching out ways to offer a Sunday morning worship experience on-line for the Sundays we will not be holding public worship. I am hoping to set up a streaming station in the sanctuary to stream live worship on Sunday mornings. This is a new thing for me, and I need as much assistance as I can get from those whose hearts and minds run in the realm of technology. We have God's Word of hope and grace in the midst of things we cannot see or control.

At this writing we do not know what the April 1st re-evaluation date will present for us to schedule worship. Palm Sunday is April 5th that leads us through Holy Week, and the Celebration of the Resurrection on April 12th. Easter will happen this year, but we may be more like the eleven disciples hiding in the upper room than the women who ventured out to anoint Jesus' body. Still, the message will be the same!



The CDC continues to update its recommendations for groups to not meet together. We will continue to pray that God will see fit to lift this virus' siege.

While Sunday worship is not being held, there is a need that will not go away. Your pledged tithes, offerings, and gifts are essential for New Spirit to operate our full-time ministry. We need all members to continue to keep up their giving in this time of hunkering down. We have the responsibility to pay utilities, staff salaries and benevolences as life and ministries continue to do their work. Your faithful help is needed at this time.

We have arranged with Vanco for your online giving during this period of suspension. You can mail your tithes and offerings through the mail, or you can stop by the church office to give yours. It is imperative that we receive offerings this time of year to help us navigate the long, hot Sundays of Summer. I thank you for your prayers, your persistence and your faithfulness in living the faith we put in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Sincerely,

Pastor Alan



For the time being Pastor Alan is live streaming Sunday morning sermons on the **New Spirit** Facebook page at 10:00 am. Simply look for New Spirit, on Facebook live. Several years ago we had New Spirit Lutheran Church Facebook page. That has been deleted.

What will happen on Easter?

At this point, we do not know. Preparations will be made to ensure Easter Worship will be a celebration. We are hoping to experience the glory of the Easter Flower Cross. We are hoping to share in the Easter Breakfast sponsored by the youth who will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June, 2021.

Our deepest desire is that we not put anyone in jeopardy of catching COVID-19. What we know is healthy people may be infected, but will experience a fairly mild-case. BUT, that otherwise healthy person can infect an at-risk person with tragic consequences. We have a large number of people at high risk: over 70, with underlying health issues (respiratory, cardiac, cancer, etc.) that will endanger them if infected. It is our duty to not put anyone in danger of infection and death.

Please be responsible in your hygiene, hand-washing, coughing, and keeping your hands away from your face and others.



AARP ordered the New Spirit Tax Site to close

After much consideration concerning the possible opening of the New Spirit Tax site, Terry and I have decided not to open again this year because of the danger involved with the Coronavirus. Thank you so much for your service this year and we hope to see you all healthy and well next year. Please do your best to stay safe by self-quarantining and following all of the guidelines put out by the experts. With God's help this too shall pass. If New Spirit members have not yet had their taxes done, contact John Lukehart or the church office to schedule an appointment to complete your taxes free.

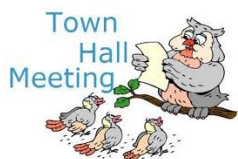
Confirmation is scheduled for Mother's Day, May 10th. Our students still have quite a bit of the course to study, so additional classes or longer class sessions, will need to be scheduled to ensure that May 10th date.



Summer Worship Schedule starts May 10th.

Our Summer schedule begins May 10th at 10:00 a.m. and that schedule will continue through Labor Day.

Pastor Alan's last Sunday is May 17th. On that day we will come together to celebrate God's promises of grace and mercy that have been Pastor's primary focus of teaching and preaching for nearly 19 years.



Mark your calendars! We will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday 4/26/2020 at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will allow the council and the congregation to openly discuss needs and current concerns within our church family

Interim Pastor will be assigned to New Spirit and they will begin June 1st. The Bishop met with the Church Council in March to discuss the next steps that we will need.

In the months to come, more information about completing our “self-study”, and the creation of a Call Committee will be raised. The Church Council is tasked with the prayerful deliberation about who will be asked to serve on the Call Committee. Please understand that if you request or volunteer “to be on the Call Committee” it will ensure that you will not be considered. Please allow the Council to follow their prayerful deliberations in lifting up names for persons to serve.



Have you planned your Funeral Service yet?

Pastor Alan wrote the Funeral Guidelines booklet and planning worksheet so every member of New Spirit can remove this most difficult job from your grieving family after your death.

Completing the plan will not hasten your death. Completing the plan will help your family understand what your favorite hymns, comforting Scripture readings, and how you would like to be remembered as a vital part of the New Spirit story. Please, before Pastor Alan leaves, complete your Funeral Plan and give it to Nancy in the Office.



SALCA Camp is coming soon!

“Who Are You?” is the 2020 Camp theme that will explore our identity in Christ, how we are adopted and loved by God, and how we find our true-selves in Jesus Christ.

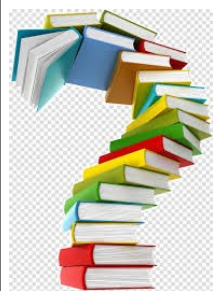
Camp is **May 25-29 at the YMCA Triangle-Y Ranch Camp** in Oracle, AZ. Camp is for students who have completed 3rd - 8th grade.

Campers will experience days and nights filled with songs, worship, games, crafts, Bible Study and activities.

Camp is one of the best “personal formation experiences” of a young person’s life. It is amazing how many adults identify their camp experiences as some of the most influential weeks of their lives.

More information can be found on the SALCA website, www.mysalca.com.

New Spirit encourages children and youth to attend. Registration fee assistance is available.



Pastor Alan has accumulated quite a collection of books and CD’s over 40 years of ministry. In early May (we hope) books and CD’s will be made available in the Fellowship Hall for New Spirit members to have.

Pastor Alan has books you have given him to read, and he wants to return them to you. Over the coming weeks your books will be returned to you. Thank you for your kindness in lending them.

If you have borrowed books from Pastor Alan, would you please return them to him. One in particular is important to him: “Ragman and Other Stories of Faith” by Rev. Walt Wangerin. Do you have this book?

With an eye on the FUTURE!

The **2021 ELCA National Youth Gathering** is happening in Minneapolis, MN June 29 – July 3, 2021.

Boundless: God Beyond Measure is the theme referred to in Ephesians 3:19

“I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.”

Youth from New Spirit will join with 40,000 of their newest best friends for a week of learning, singing, worshipping, serving, and being challenged to live our faith out-loud.

Registration for the event is **\$350/person**. Parents are asked to pay their youth’s registration. That registration opens in September, so you will want to be ready on the day to register our entire group at one time. One check for registration is required at that time.

The youth have been raising funds for a couple years now to help off-set the other costs: airfare to Minneapolis, hotel and food assistance.

ELCA National Youth Gatherings are a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our youth are getting excited to make the trip, and to engage in God’s BOUNDLESS energy and love.



On February 7, 2020 Terry Wolfe submitted an application to the Arizona Builders Alliance for needed facility renovations on K-Hall during their 2020 Volunteer Day event set for early December. On March 19, 2020 Terry was informed that the application submitted has been chosen as one of the five finalists. To be considered New Spirit had to meet the requirements of an organization that uses the building to provide services to underprivileged children, families in need or the elderly. The Arizona Builders Alliance will be performing site visits in the coming months to determine the lucky organization.



April Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



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

Women's Ministry Group Minutes for March 2020

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met on 11 March 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the church.

Our bible study was Session Three of "We Are Called". Understand God's call to serve the neighbor; recognize the importance of discerning and responding to the specific needs of our neighbors and reflect on what God might be calling us to say and do in our own particular contexts.

Opening hymn was "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service Open".

February 2020 minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Sandra Colwell led devotions based on Mark 10:45; Jesus was the example of selflessness; we must serve others with gladness in our hearts.

Sunshine Report: Thinking of you cards were sent.

OLD BUSINESS:

The youth group will fill bags with goodies and distribute to the children on Easter Sunday in lieu of an Egg Hunt.

The WELCA Bulletin Board will be updated to include pictures from the Sunrise Santa Cruz Conference held on 7 March 2020 in Sierra Vista.

The library project is continuing with dusting and straightening the shelves.

The kitchen inventory project is on hold due to the coronavirus panemic.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gloria Burke reported that twelve (12) pounds of can tabs were delivered to Ronald McDonald House in January 2020.

We will be assembling Easter Cards at our next meeting on 8 April to be mailed that day to ensure delivery by Easter. Our group will also be sending confirmation cards to this year's confirmands.

The Fall 2020 Synod Women's Convention/Gathering will be held 23 and 24 October 2020 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oro Valley.

In closing we sang the hymn "We Are Called".

Next meeting will be held on 8 April 2020 at 1:30 at the church.

Linda Lamb – Secretary



Thank You
for your Prayers
Support and Generosity.

I always said that friends are gifts from God. Having this stroke proves it with all the prayers, phone calls, food & needs left on the back porch. Joyce and Sharon sitting with me so Archie could shop. Angel Ellie for checking and delivering every few days, Sharon for new eating bibs to keep my lap clothes clean. Pastor Alan for checking in and many cheerful cards. I enjoy doing short phone calls. I feel quite well, but I can't walk alone yet. I am blessed every day. Thank God for you all!
Gloria B.

A Devotion in Uncertain Times

We are living in uncertain times. With the onset of the Coronavirus things are changing daily. People fight for basic supplies like food, water and cleaning supplies. Many are separated from loved ones due to fears of catching the virus or because they already have. Some are out of work worried about finances, and social distancing takes us further and further from each other. Our fear far outdistances our need and desire for fellowship and community.

Churches, schools, gyms, clubs, restaurants, community events, libraries and sports have all shut down leaving us socially isolated with only a building fear made more real and unconquerable by the ongoing media reports.

This is a time when we must turn to our faith and remember the Lord who cares for and protects us. Psalms 46:10 (New living translation) tells us “Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world”. When we are quiet and focus on the Lord, we can find the inner peace denied us by worldly worries. We can look for the wonders of creation that bear witness to the power of our Lord who created all that is good.

Surely the Lord who created the life given by a desert rain, a flower pushing through the tough and parched caliche soil against all odds, or a sunset splashed across the sky from a painters palette, can provide all we need in our time of fear and uncertainty.

In Matthew 6: 25-27 Jesus reminds us ²⁵“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? ²⁷“And who of you by being worried can add a *single* hour to his life?”

So, in these times of trouble, do not worry about hoarding and acquiring more food than we may be able to use but give to those who lack and remember who provided all you have. Whatever we give in love will come back to us in blessings. Let us use this time of self-imposed isolation to take stock of all the blessings we have been given and reflect on the one who provided them.

Hopefully we can all come through this time with a heart full of gratitude and a renewed desire to give to those who need more than we do ourselves. Amen



Shelley Colwell, Church Council Secretary



Congratulations to Kati Uidenich who won the Arizona State FFA competition in “Food Science.” She will be representing Arizona in the FFA Nationals in October.



This school year, we are feeding **290** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

We are working diligently with TUSD and our schools to deliver our snack packs during the recent school closures.

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 TOWARDS 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***



HOMELESS BLESSINGS YOU CAN HELP TOO!

At this time due to the Coronavirus outbreak we are unsure of our April Schedule. Please contact the New Spirit office for updates.

Our event the 2nd Saturday of each month has representatives from City of Tucson and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live.

New Spirit's Homeless Blessings Team shares 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 TOWARDS 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-Outs

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

SHOUT-OUT - To the Church Council members who have been calling to check on needs of NSLC members.

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: 4:00 pm Adult Education

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

Website: newspiritlutherantucson.org