

# That's The Spirit!

Rev. Carol Breimeier  
Rev. Fred Nelson

New Spirit Lutheran Church

*Our faith is in Jesus.*

*Our hope is in grace.*

*Our strength is in love.*

April 2021

## GOOD NEWS AND GROWTH

I saw an article (pre-pandemic) in the paper saying that a new restaurant had opened in Tucson, a new location for a breakfast/brunch/lunch place I'd been to in Phoenix. So Fred and I decided to give it a try one Sunday afternoon. When we got there, there was hardly any room in the parking lot, and the front of the restaurant was packed, inside and out front, with people waiting for tables. Sometimes there are tables for two even when a bunch of families and groups of friends are waiting, so I went in and asked how long the wait would be for the two of us. An hour and 45 minutes. Yep! One hour plus 45 minutes.



I don't remember where we ended up eating, but I do remember the experience of not eating at that restaurant. I obviously wasn't the only person who'd heard about it. News travels, and, if the news is encouraging, people respond.

It makes me think of a story from the gospels (on pp. 330-331 in *The Story*). Jesus came home to Capernaum and, when people heard he was home, they "gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door." News travels fast, and, when it's good news, people want to be part of it.

That's why it's the natural situation for churches to grow. As we're reminded so very clearly at Easter, we have the best news, the Good News of Jesus Christ and his victory over sin, death, and any and everything that could ever separate us from the God who loves us. The church is the community of people who gather to celebrate that news and to help each other live full and joyful lives in light of that truth.

Of course, there are all kinds of reasons why the natural situation of growth in the church can get sidetracked. One reason is that it's hard to get the news out to people who think they don't have any use for it. (Imagine if that restaurant I read about served nothing but water and Wonder bread.) And it's hard for people to know that they need the Good News about Jesus if they feel like they're doing just fine without it. (As if we'd eaten a big meal just before we went to check that restaurant out.)

If we long to see the growing season God longs for us to have at New Spirit, we're going to have to do some careful thinking and planning, and we're going to have to practice talking about how our lives have been transformed by what God did in Jesus Christ—talk about it in a way that entices our friends and neighbors to check it out. Lots to do! But what a glorious payoff!

Continued on page 2

I want to make a request of each of you reading this. My request is that you think and pray about your place in the growing season that's on the horizon for New Spirit. Let the Spirit speak to you. I'm going to list a few things you could be part of. You may feel called to something other than these options, but maybe there's something here for you:

**Evangelism Team:** A team of people thinking through how best we can reach the people we're best situated to reach in the area around New Spirit. Pastor Fred is working with this team. See his article on p. 3 for more info.

**Reopening Working Group:** A group gathering to plan what we can safely do and when we can safely do it as we anticipate moving back toward "normal" at church. I'm working with this group. If you're interested in helping, contact me at [carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org).

**First Impressions Team:** This group will think about the experience of first-time visitors to New Spirit, including our physical facilities, to see if anything needs a little updating. Jenny Kwapich is convening this team ([jennykwapich@gmail.com](mailto:jennykwapich@gmail.com)).

Finally, the **Stewardship Team** focuses on how all of us can gain great satisfaction from sharing our gifts, including our financial gifts, toward the work of God that we're doing together. Pastor Fred is working with the Stewardship Team. See his article on p. 3 to learn more.

Beyond these specific teams, there are three things we can *all* do as part of our growing season:

-Pray regularly for New Spirit and for the people whose hearts God is preparing to hear from us.

-Say encouraging things to each other and to people who are actively serving on teams, etc.

-Be a smiling, welcoming face when you meet people—old friends and new people—at church. Let us show that New Spirit is a warm, welcoming place where we love Jesus and each other.



If you want to talk about your place in all this, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Soon (God willing) we'll be able to sit down over coffee and chat about it! In the meantime, there are other ways to talk!

May God bless you in this Easter season! And may God bless New Spirit with a season of growth!

In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ,  
Pastor Carol

## SERMONS BY MAIL



Just a reminder: If you are unable to go online to watch our weekly recorded worship, you can at least read the sermon. Every week we mail out paper copies to anyone who's interested. If you'd like to receive sermons by mail and aren't already on Nancy's list, please call her at 520-296-2461 or email [Nancy@NewSpiritLutheranTucson.org](mailto:Nancy@NewSpiritLutheranTucson.org). We'll happily continue this practice for anyone who is unable to make it to church after we reopen as well.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, love, cards, calls, and concerns for me and my family. Bich Francis



## TAKE TIME TO TEND TO YOUR SPIRIT

Maybe you find yourself in the spiritual doldrums. Maybe you're feeling focused but want someone to help you set a path and follow it. Or maybe you're puttering along OK but feel your spiritual life could use a little more forward momentum. No matter what your situation, Spiritual Growth Coaching is for you.

Why? Because a coach meets you where you are and helps you think through where you want to be and how best to start to move in that direction.



Usually a coach will meet with you about once a month to help you make a plan and, then, to help you hold yourself accountable to your plan. Of course, if something isn't working, then you'll talk it through together and you can make adjustments or just start fresh. The point is to grow deeper in faith and closer to Christ, so that your life is more and more fulfilling and joyful.

Interested in learning more? Pastor Carol and Pastor Fred are our two current coaches, although we hope to train a few more in the coming months. Get in touch with either of us to set a time to have an initial conversation by phone or Zoom or, we hope soon, in person.

Pastor Carol: [carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org); Pastor Fred: [fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org). We're looking forward to hearing from you!

### **Who? Me an Evangelist?**

Yeah, I know. You may never have thought of yourself that way. But listen and think again. If you have a heart for seeing people develop a relationship with Jesus Christ, you just might be an evangelist. If you're open to thinking creatively and acting boldly to reach unchurched people, you just might be an evangelist. And if you're intrigued by the idea of being part of a growing team here at

New Spirit that will be working on these very things, then you definitely should check out our new Evangelism Team. Five of us are already on board, but we've just gotten started, so it's a great time to give it a try. Come with your prayers and your thoughts and a willingness to learn and work together. This promises to be a truly life-changing ministry. *Interested in finding out more?* Contact Pastor Fred by phone at 847-323-3774 or by email at [fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org).



### **Wanted: People Who Are Passionate About Generosity**

Do you personally find that it is, in fact, more blessed to give than to receive? Do you feel a deep satisfaction in giving of yourself to support life-changing ministries? Do you appreciate generosity when you see it in others? If you find yourself answering Yes to these kinds of questions, then you might really enjoy being part of our new Stewardship Team. We're not so much interested in "fundraising" as we are in cultivating a culture of generosity here at New Spirit. *Want to find out more?* Contact Pastor Fred by phone at 847-323-3774 or by email at [fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org)



### LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY VISITOR



Solveig Muus, director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA), will join our Zoom communion and coffee hour on Sunday, April 11. Solveig will tell us about LAMA, listen to your thoughts, and answer your questions. You can learn a little more about LAMA before Solveig's visit by going to [lama.org](http://lama.org).



## NEW SPIRIT IS STILL DELIVERING FOOD

While the Blessings in a Backpack team has been unable to meet for a year, we have partnered with Optimum for premade snack packs. We have been able to supplement the snack packs with items from the Food Bank of Southern Arizona. These extra donations enable us to provide more food for families during each school's drive-by food distribution at Steele, Henry, Erickson, and Ford Elementary Schools.

As COVID19 vaccinations become more available, we hope to be back to packing in the fall for the new school year.

For regular contributions, please make your tax deductible check to Blessings in a Backpack. You can 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!

Contact Laurie Bernard at [lbernard2008@hotmail.com](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

"Like" our page on Facebook ***Blessings at New Spirit Lutheran Church***

### April Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

4/1 Katie Uidenich

4/2 Jay Schreiber

4/8 Victor Garibay, Jr.

4/11 Henry Kwapich

4/14 Deb Klink

4/17 Ron O'Connor  
James West



4/20 Steve & Linda Lamb  
(Anniversary)

4/21 Altaira Garibay  
Shereen O'Connor

4/23 Joselyn Uidenich

4/25 Jenny Kwapich

4/30 Ken Dobbs



## HOMELESS BLESSINGS

This is the look on our client's faces after they get a hot meal from us!

After taking off December and January, our event the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month has been limited to a couple volunteers and scaled back items. In March, we had 11 men and women to share our items with. We are now on winter hours, 1pm to 3pm.

**WE ARE PREPARING DRAWSTRING BAGS WITH BASIC HYGIENE ITEMS. THESE BAGS HELP US REACH ANOTHER 20 PEOPLE EACH MONTH.**

**TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSH, WIPES, LOTION, BANDAIDS, ANTI-SEPTIC LOTION, AND PAIN RELIEVER. IN ADDITION TO FLASHLIGHTS AND BATTERIES, WE ALSO INCLUDE EXTRA FOOD ITEMS.**

**THESE BAGS CAN THEN BE CARRIED IN YOUR CAR AND PASSED OUT TO ANY NEEDY PERSON YOU SEE ON THE STREET. WE ARE DETERMINED TO REACH AS MUCH OF THIS VULNERABLE POPULATION AS EVER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A FEW BAGS, CONTACT US.**

*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 line. You can 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](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

# New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

## Shout-Outs

*SHOUT OUT - To Jenny Kwapich, Renee Geiger, Shelley Colwell, Robin Hughes, and Susan Armstrong for providing meditations for our Lenten Midweek worship services.*

*SHOUT OUT - To those who kicked off the Evangelism Team - your willingness, dedication, and wisdom are appreciated! Together we GROW!*

*SHOUT OUT - To all our prayer warriors*

*SHOUT OUT - To the Colwells for loving and supporting our youth in so many ways!*

*SHOUT OUT - To The Story discussion group leaders. Thank you for guiding our groups and encouraging participation so that we may learn and grow in faith.*

*SHOUT OUT - To Nancy.... you rock!!!!*

*SHOUT OUT - To Pastors Carol and Fred for leading us but also for their presence in our lives despite the distance.*

*SHOUT OUT - To all of our congregation who continue to “do our best” and stay safe amidst this global pandemic. You’re doing great!!!!*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Due to the uncertainty of dates that the church will re-open, we have not included a calendar with this newsletter. Please check the calendar posted on the website. Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

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

<p><b>Sundays:</b> (in usual times) 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 &amp; Liturgies) You can currently watch services Sundays on YouTube.</p>	<p><b>How to contact us:</b>  New Spirit Lutheran Church 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85710  <b>Phone:</b> (520) 296-2461 <b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com">NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://newspiritlutherantucson.org">newspiritlutherantucson.org</a></p>
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