

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

August 2018

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

One of the benefits of going to the ELCA's National Youth Gathering is for our youth to get a fresh look at Jesus and his call for us to be the Church. I am looking forward to the stories our youth will share on August 5th.

I have been reading this summer, essays and blogs on practices of healthy, growing churches. I am struggling with one of the most important aspects of vibrant congregational life. In fact, almost every year in mid- to late summer I raise this vital aspect of our vitality. Oh, a bit redundant, sorry.

Preaching and worship are not keys to a vital church life. Oh, they are necessary but they are not the source of vitality. Outreach and ministries of support are important, but are not the source of vitality. Radical welcome and lots of food are important in Lutheran churches, but are not the source of vitality.

The source of vitality lies within you, as you read these words. The source of vitality lies in your personal disciplines that connect you with Jesus Christ. Three years ago I discovered through Richard Rohr the essential need for daily meditation and prayer to discover God's moving within our hearts and souls. I encouraged you to take the first steps toward deepening your spiritual life. Carve out 5-7 minutes each day. Read a devotional. Read the Bible. Listen to a guided meditation on your phone or tablet. Silence your nagging thoughts. Step away from the rush of life. Dwell in the presence of God's peace and love.

Vital congregations are made up of people who practice daily prayer and meditation. Vital congregations value personal discipleship. Every person needs to let go of the assumption that "going to church or doing good deeds or financial giving is going to win you a ticket to heaven."

Nope, that notion is exactly what moves congregations to the plateau toward disintegration.

That's an interesting word "disintegration." The "dis-" tells us of dis-ease, and dis-function. The "integration" of our spiritual lives comes in committed practices, rehearsals if you will. It takes work, effort, making mistakes, and applying mercy (forgiveness) to enable us to try and try again to deepen our spiritual faith corporately.

I am calling you to join with me in a nine-month journey to deepen and broaden our spiritual life together. This will be a good follow up on the year-long journey many of you shared in practicing monthly spiritual disciplines, thanks to Cathy Cermak and Renee & Craig Geiger.

Twice each month we will gather to learn, to share, to practice, and to celebrate. Times will include morning, afternoon, and evening opportunities for the 45-60 minute process.

When the Spirit of the Living God fills a person, there is an organic welcome that occurs. Gladness and joy become infectious. Friendships blossom. Days are blest with grace.

I invite you, today, to join with me and others to learn to live into being "church" for the sake of the world.

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Alan



ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston was a life-altering experience for the eight of us who attended from New Spirit. On **Sunday, August 5th**, the youth will be sharing their experiences at the event, and where they saw God in our week there. Thanks to Valerie Friend who led and cared for our youth.



In addition to that, we will be showing the “**Evening Mass Gathering Speakers**” as part of our Wednesday Adult education series on September 5, 12, 19, 26. We would love to have you challenged to discover that God is acting in our lives at all times.

HOSPITALITY

What does that word mean to you?

There are multiple calls from Jesus to be hospitable to our neighbors. And who are our neighbors? Everyone! I’m looking at our fellowship time, right now before the service, otherwise between services. I know quite a few of you don’t participate. You go off to do your own thing.

But I challenge you to look at fellowship time differently, whether you come to it or not. We never know who comes. It could be that “stranger” looking for a welcome or even simply a cup of coffee. We need to be there for them. Yes, it doesn’t need to be a feast!

So here comes the call to action. Be part of fellowship. Every family unit will be assigned to a month. If you can’t be there in person, on a team, you can still help financially. It reimburses the team. No one is expected to cover all the expenses.

SO BE A TEAM MEMBER!!!



Brigitte Stuetze

Columbarium/Memorial Gardens news.....

Over the past years, the nameplates on our Columbarium niches have been deteriorating. We recently learned they were not made to be outside. The heat of the sun, and lime leaching out of the block wall that surrounds it damaged the nameplates badly.

Ron O’Connor has spent hours researching, contacting, and meeting with representatives of bronze-casting businesses in the Southwest, of which there are very few. He did connect with a company, and has begun the first steps to replace all of the nameplates from the Columbarium.

The new nameplates are cast-bronze, better than ¼ inch thick for a sturdy, permanent nameplate.

Before the new nameplates will be attached to the columbarium some maintenance on the structural blocks needs to be completed. The blocks need to be cleaned with a masonry solvent (muriatic acid), power-washed, and then sealed with a liquid sealer. This will be a big job for us to complete. If you have experience, or are willing to help, please contact Ron O’Connor.



Wednesday Evening Suppers are returning at **5:30 p.m. September 5th!**

But, before that we need to meet on **Sunday, August 19th**, after worship to put together our **monthly Cook Teams**.



If you would like to join a cook team for a month of Wednesdays, please sign up on the **Magnet Board in the Narthex**. Thanks!!!

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW) and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) have been identified in Arizona to reunite 500 families of immigrants who were separated from their children. 1500 adults were sent to Eloy, where a for-profit prison held them in cells, while their children were flown to Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, and Maine among other locations.

Now that the courts have said families need to be reunited, LSS-SW and LIRS are actively receiving busloads of adults from Eloy, and children arriving at Sky Harbor airport in Phoenix.

There are no government funds to do this work. People are arriving at the Refugee Focus building on Central Avenue in Phoenix with the clothes on their backs, hungry, and very afraid. All are outfitted with ankle-bracelets, including children. Court dates are set with 15 days being the average wait. Families need to be housed in hotels, fed, and given clothes.

LSS-SW and LIRS staff are working 16-18 hours each day. That's a lot of overtime.

The New Spirit Endowment fund has sent money to LSS-SW. The need is huge! If you can help with a monetary donation there are three ways you can do this:

Make out a check to Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest and mail it to:

LSS-SW

10201 S. 51st Street Suite 180, Phoenix, AZ 85044.

Pay by credit card by going to the LSS-SW website: www.lss-sw.org and click on donation button.

Make your check out to New Spirit Lutheran Church, and in the memo line write "reunification of families".

Thank you for your compassionate response.



Wednesday Adult Education begins **Wednesday, September 5th**. Due to the fact that we have more and more folks who do not want to be "out after dark" we will be offering early classes and later classes. Early classes will be offered **at 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**, for those who do not do night driving, as well as classes from **6:15 – 7:45 p.m. after supper.**



**Adult
Education**

We will show the four evening speakers at the National Youth Gathering on the following dates: September 5 - Wednesday evening speakers; September 12 - Thursday evening speakers; September 19 - Friday evening speakers; September 26 – Saturday evening speakers.

If you would like to lead a short-study or class, please let Pastor Alan know.

Did you see the new "New Spirit t-shirts?"

Our group wore our pink "***Have you been MERCIFIED?***" shirts in Houston. Once people realized they did not say "Have you been MERCIFUL?" it opened interesting conversations.

Now you will have your opportunity to bear witness the Gospel message proclaimed at New Spirit Lutheran Church. "**Have you been MERCIFIED?**"

We will be taking orders and payment for shirts on Sunday August 5 thru September 2. You will be asked to pay for your shirt when you place your order.

There will be two color choices: **pink with black letters AND navy with yellow letters.** Prices should be in the \$11 range.



Hello everyone

My name is Terry Wolfe, I have been the treasure of New Spirit Lutheran Church for the past 4 years. Before that I served as the Vice-President, President and President Emeritus. Joy, my beloved wife of 37 years, come August 16th, began coming here to church when we moved back after we retired from the Air Force after 27 ½ years. Joy and I have been stationed at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, RAF Bentwaters in the United Kingdom, Ramstein Air Base Germany and Davis Monthan AFB here in Tucson. I also spent a year at Suwon Air Base South Korea. After retiring from the Air Force, I worked for Bombardier Learjet for 16 years as a Quality Analyst and retired from there in 2015. I enjoy playing golf, although some say that is a loose interpretation of what I am doing. I also like spending time with my family, travelling, working on cars and playing with my granddaughters. Joy and I have two children, Kevin and Lisa. Lisa and her husband Keith were married here at New Spirit and my granddaughters, Lauren and Amelia, were baptized here. Keith is a United States Marine and they are stationed on Oahu, Hawaii. Kevin lives in Green Valley and works for Hangar Orthotics. You can usually find me ushering at service or in the counting room. I have also been on one of the Wednesday night cook teams for the last two years.



August Workday is Saturday the 18th at 6:00 a.m. Weeds are appearing in lots of places. Buffle grass is showing its resurgence. Trees need pruning. Granite needs to be evened out in most areas. You are invited to join us in these very manual tasks on August 18th. We'll be happy to have you help, and we will be happy to feed you a hearty breakfast!

August Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

08/01 Dolores Gran

08/02 Lee Horley

08/03 Craig & Renee Geiger
(anniversary)

08/04 Naida Granmo

08/05 Gladys Mack

08/08 Ben Burch

08/09 Verola Halvorson

08/14 Ciana Maple,
Allison Uidenich, Terry Wolfe



08/15 Christina Payette

08/16 Lis Schafer
Terry & Joy Wolfe
(anniversary)

08/17 Paul Hedstrom
Paul & Edna Walton
(anniversary)

08/19 Paul & Brigitte Stuetze
(anniversary)

08/19 Ted & LaSandra Matthews
(anniversary)

08/21 Colin Uidenich

08/22 Paul Stuetze

08/25 Carrie Crace

08/25 Wes Mengert

08/29 Katharina Morales,
Mia Payette, Chieko Casey

08/30 Victor Garibay,
Amber Jindrick

God's Work, Our Hands This year the Church Council has chosen to align with *"Tucson Days of Caring"* on *October 19-20*. We will sign-up our group and will be assigned by the Tucson Helps Day coordinator. Yes, we will wear our lovely YELLOW shirts! More to come.



JOIN THOUSANDS FOR SOUTHERN ARIZONA'S LARGEST VOLUNTEER EVENT!



United Way's Days of Caring pairs local needs with caring people to improve Tucson and Southern Arizona, one project at a time.

Choose the project that fits you. There are over a hundred projects with nonprofits, schools, care facilities, community gardens, neighborhoods and more.

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY AND
BE A PART OF THE CHANGE.**





HOMELESS BLESSINGS

A special THANKS to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for bringing their portable showers to our event on July 14th. Thanks to Pam from Visual Lies for the haircuts!

July brought us 30 clients. We are seeing more "marginal" clients (they have shelter but still struggle with having enough food to eat). In addition to showers and haircuts, we can provide 1-day bus passes, access to housing, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, tarps, ponchos, and a great home cooked meal. Biscuits and gravy are always a big hit!

There are collection boxes in NSLC's narthex. See the list below of items we always need. As we grow, we are looking to put donation boxes in area businesses and churches. The Arizona Beer House (we serve Thanksgiving dinner there) has delivered items to us several times from the donation box in their entryway. IF YOU KNOW SOME BUSINESS THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP US, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

PLEASE DONATE:

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S NEW UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS
SHOES
BACKPACKS AND TARPS
AA AND AAA BATTERIES
FULL SIZE SHAMPOO, LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT
RAZORS, COMBS, BRUSHES
PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED MEATS
PROTEIN DRINKS

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.

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



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?

This school year, we will be feeding **279** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend. Typical items include macaroni n' cheese box, canned sausages, chicken or tuna, oatmeal, canned beans or pasta, cereal, hot cocoa, canned vegetable, and fruit cup.

We were gifted with 980 snack packs from a recent packing event by the Arizona Association of School Business Officials. This is the 2nd year they have honored us with a contribution.

Join us for a packing day with Mayor Rothschild on Thursday, September 27th at 3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at New Spirit. Hear from representatives of the schools we serve and help pack snack packs for our kids!

The Jim Click Millions for Tucson Raffle 2018 Edition has launched! **This year Mr. Click is raffling off a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee Summit as the grand prize.** In addition, there are two new prizes this year, as well. Second prize is two first-class, round-trip airline tickets anywhere in the world and third prize is \$5,000. Ticket prices are one for \$25 or five for \$100. **ALL PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES STAY WITH THE NEW SPIRIT BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK PROGRAM.**

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.**

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*

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710



SHOUT OUT- Ron O'Connor for all his work on the Columbarium nameplates

SHOUT OUT- July Workday Crew - Dick Gruntzel, Don Crow, Ken Dobbs, John Lukecart, Craig Geiger, Steve, Sam Wymer and Pastor Alan.

Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT- Workday Breakfast Team - Sharon Dobbs, Darlene Paape, Bich Francis and Ellie Thompson

SHOUT OUT- Valerie Friend who took vacation to attend the Youth Gathering in Houston.

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, 6:15 pm Classes

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