

# 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.*

August 2021

## REACH OUT, WELCOME IN, HANG ON – BECAUSE EVERYONE MATTERS

You may remember that our Growing Season plan, adopted by the congregation at the 2020 Annual Meeting in January, envisions New Spirit with “more and deeper disciples”—larger numbers and everyone growing in their spiritual lives. What you may not have noticed is how certain things happening now at New Spirit are intentionally designed to help make both of those things happen. To make the connection clearer, we’d like to “connect the dots” for you by lifting up three key themes: (1) Reaching Out, (2) Welcoming In, and (3) Hanging On.

Having “more disciples” at New Spirit starts with remembering that everyone everywhere is meant to be in a relationship with Jesus Christ and with his church. Of all the many people around us who don’t yet know Jesus in a life-changing way, there are many who can find what they need and be nurtured in our congregation. So, we want to REACH OUT to connect with those folks.



Our Evangelism Team is currently preparing a large-scale oversized postcard to be mailed out in time to invite people around us to connect with us in the fall. This will correspond with a fall message series and discussion groups on Rick Warren’s book *Purpose-Driven Life*, a topic with universal appeal but specific application to each individual.

In addition, we’ve done one workshop on One-Minute Faith Stories, helping us prepare to share something about our faith with friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and even strangers when God gives us an opportunity. We had about a dozen participants in the workshop, and we’ll offer it again soon for anyone who missed the first one.

When people respond to an invitation and visit New Spirit, we want to be ready to give them a warm and hospitable welcome. And we want to be ready to follow up with them after their visit. This is the WELCOME IN step. This step has several interconnected pieces.

First, we want to greet newcomers warmly and intentionally. We’ve developed a little protocol for when visitors come to worship. Our greeters are already implementing it, but we also will be offering a training session for them and for anyone else who’d like to take on this important role. On Sunday, August 8, after worship, we’ll do a Greeter Training session. Anyone and everyone is invited to check it out.

Second, we want to create an attractive space for newcomers to hang out after worship. We’re refreshing our coffee hour space and providing high-quality snacks and drinks to encourage folks to hang out and make connections among themselves. It’s always easier to do that over tasty treats and a good cup of coffee or a nice cold drink.

Cont’d page 2

The third aspect of welcoming in has to do with visitor follow-up. Studies confirm that a personal visit from a church member with an attractive “goodie bag” makes a significant impact on first-time guests. That’s why, on Sunday, August 15, we’ll do Visitor Follow-up Training after worship. This is a great opportunity for our most friendly and outgoing people to hear about best practices for connecting with visitors in a way designed to let them know how much we appreciated their visit and how happy we’d be to have them return.

These practices—greeting and follow-up—will build on the warm and welcoming atmosphere we already have at New Spirit.

Finally, we want to HANG ON to everyone who’s already part of New Spirit. Everyone matters—everyone who’s already here and everyone who’s not here yet. The primary way we can “hold on” is to stay observant and stay connected. Keep your eyes open for who is at Sunday worship and who might be missing. If you notice someone’s missing, give a quick call to find out if they’re OK. The pastors will also keep an eye on who’s been missing for a while, but this is really an all-hands-on-deck task.

Reach out, welcome in, hang on because every person—young or older, long-time member or brand-new visitor—matters to God and to us!

## **ONE CONVERSATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Most of us feel stuck in some part of our lives at some points in our lives. And one place where that can easily happen is in our spiritual lives. We can find ourselves in the spiritual doldrums or simply notice that it’s been a while since we felt the joy of growing closer to God.



How to shake free from stuckness and begin to see growth and forward momentum? You have one good tool at your disposal: Spiritual Growth Coaching.

Spiritual Growth Coaching takes the coaching model and applies it to your life of faith. Your 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.

A coach will ordinarily meet with you about once a month to help you plan and 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 them to set a time to have an initial conversation. 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!

## DECISIONS ABOUT A GENEROUS DONATION

Virginia Gearhart left a generous and substantial gift to New Spirit Church when she passed away: just over \$300,000. We are blessed that we don't need to dip into this money to pay for things we're already doing. That means we need a process to determine how best to use it to further our mission as a congregation. Our Church Council has approved the following approach.

We decided to do three things with this opportunity. First, to give away 10% (\$30,000) to the Grand Canyon Synod as a tithe. In fact, we have already done this, following long-standing New Spirit tradition and guidelines. (You can read about how the synod uses its financial resources [here](#).) Second, to strategically spend 20% now (\$50,000–\$75,000). And third, to set aside 70% (\$200,000 to \$225,000) as a targeted mission fund to be used when a new regularly called pastor is in place.

How to spend that 20%? We will use a "wish list" approach to allow anyone interested to weigh in on possible things to spend this on. To propose an item for the wish list, the person making the suggestion will be asked to give a ministry rationale, explaining how the proposed expenditure will advance the mission and ministry of our congregation.



Church Council members will gather their own ideas and winnow that to a list to share with the congregation. Then, later in the fall, Council will share that list with the congregation and invite everyone to propose their own spending priorities.

Council will then take a good look at all entries and come back to the congregation with a recommended proposal for a combined spending package to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in December.

So please watch for more info about when you can submit your ideas, and, in the meantime, be thinking about things we could spend money on to have a real impact on our call to grow broader and deeper as a congregation in this Growing Season.

## SERVICE FOR TERRY WOLFE



Terry Wolfe, former New Spirit treasurer and a significant leader for the congregation, passed away in December. A memorial service will be held for him at church on Saturday, August 14, at 2:00pm. All are encouraged to attend. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

## PASTOR ALAN FAREWELL CELEBRATION

Pastor Alan Field retired at the end of May 2020, in the midst of the COVID lockdown, so the congregation he pastored for 20 years didn't get to say goodbye properly. In addition, he left the confirmation class unconfirmed.



We will set that right on Sunday, October 31, with a special worship service at 10:00am followed by a celebrative luncheon. Please mark your calendar now, and then keep your eyes open for more information, including requests for volunteers.

## Introducing Robert Encila

Hello, friends. What a pleasure it is for me to find a new home for worship and to share my love of music again! I thought I'd tell you a little bit about myself as an official introduction: I am a long-time Tucson resident, but my journey started thousands of miles across the ocean.



I was born and raised in the Philippines. In my late teens, my family and I moved to Tucson where I earned a scholarship to the University of Arizona. I studied Music and Theatre, and after graduation I spent another two years of study to become a public school teacher. And that's what I've done for the past 30 years, teaching drama and musical theatre to middle and high school students.

I am also a professional musician with numerous connections in the community. I have served as Music Minister at The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew and as Choir Director at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church. Over the years I worked with various bands around Tucson but have recently channeled that energy around the house, playing music (and lots of role-playing) with my three young grandsons.

I am married to Virginia, who is an award-winning art teacher and a former youth minister. We have two daughters, Catherine and Maya. Catherine has the three boys, and Maya just graduated from a musical theatre conservatory in New York. She is starting her new life and career there.

I love to read and exercise. I also love to write; in fact, part of my on-going outreach and advocacy on behalf of the arts community is a series of theatre reviews and articles on [www.BroadwayWorld.com](http://www.BroadwayWorld.com). It sounds like a busy life, but God's grace has made it possible for me to have a vibrant family life and ample time to grow my fellowship.

Thank you so much for welcoming me and my family into your circle. I am convinced that New Spirit has been the answer to a fervent prayer.

## MUSICIANS MEETING AUGUST 5



Do you sing or play an instrument? Whether you've been involved with music at New Spirit before or not, please come to church at 5:00pm on Thursday, August 5. Our new worship leader, Robert Encila, wants to meet with everyone together to help him get to know New Spirit's musical resources. If you have questions or are unable to be there for the meeting, please get in touch with Robert at [robencila60@gmail.com](mailto:robencila60@gmail.com).

## Introducing Glenn Schrader

Glenn Schrader is a third-year Master of Divinity ("Word and Sacrament") student at ELCA's Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, which he attends via Zoom. Glenn entered into Candidacy through the Grand Canyon Synod in 2019 and received Endorsement in May 2021 for his internship program. Prior to beginning his seminary instruction, he taught chemical engineering at the University of Arizona (Department Chair; Research Dean; Head of UA Campus Sustainability), Iowa State University (predominantly), and the University of Delaware. His research interests have been in ecological sustainability for water and energy, environmental ethics, and the fundamental science of catalytic processes.



Glenn was baptized at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in his hometown of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He graduated in 2017 from the Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation (Luther College, Decorah, Iowa), and he holds a certificate from the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction (Tucson). Last summer he completed his clinical pastoral education (chaplaincy) requirement for seminary training at Banner-University Medical Center in Phoenix. As an outcome, he currently is involved in program development for healthcare workers as a facilitator with the International Healing of Memories Institute (Carefree, Arizona). Glenn organized and led the Adult Education/Sunday Forum at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (Tucson) for five years with special emphases on the Reformation history and theology, prison reform, biblical interpretation, and care for creation.

Glenn's "extended" internship program will involve a multi-site ecumenical engagement with congregations in Arizona at New Spirit Lutheran (Tucson) and in New Mexico at First United Methodist (Silver City) and Peace Lutheran (Las Cruces).

## August Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

08/03 Craig & Renee Geiger (anniversary)	08/17 Paul Hedstrom, Paul & Edna Walton (anniversary)	08/20 Ted & LaSandra Matthews (anniversary)
08/04 Naida Granmo		08/21 Colin Uidenich
08/05 Gladys Mack	08/19 Paul & Brigitte Stuetze (anniversary)	08/22 Paul Stuetze
08/14 Ciana Maple, Allison Uidenich		08/26 Nancy Cunningham
08/15 Christina Payette		08/29 Katharina Morales, Mia Payette
08/16 Lis Schafer		08/30 Victor Garibay







## IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

School begins on August 5<sup>th</sup>! We will still be delivering the premade snack packs from Optimum. We anticipate packing our own snack packs later this fall, depending on CDC guidelines.

Purchase your Jim Click Ford raffle tickets for a chance to win a 2021 Ford Bronco Sport! All proceeds stay with our program here at New Spirit. Please see the church office for tickets. 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!

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

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



## BLESSINGS TO OUR STREET FRIENDS

Everyone needs a hug once in a while. People living on the street want to be acknowledged. We do that here at New Spirit. In addition to supplying much needed supplies, we offer support and love to otherwise overlooked, struggling people. Our monthly events and administering directly to them where they are, makes a great impact on lives. Thank you for helping us.

If you have spring/summer clothing, shoes, socks, blankets/sleeping bags, AA & AAA batteries, hygiene products, or packaged food, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. We can always use monetary contributions to help pay for new underwear, backpacks, and tarps.

*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](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

# New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

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!

<b>Sundays:</b>  10:00 am Worship  You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.	<b><i>How to contact us:</i></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>
--	--