

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

December 2018

Dear Partners on the Journey,

The season of Advent is peculiar. All around us the festive lights and decorations spell out the joyful anticipation of Christmas. All around us the spirit of the season is one of generosity, kindness, welcome, care, and concern. As the seasonal song proclaims, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." I guess.

With a certain peculiarity, we walk into a darkened Sanctuary. The darkness is symbolic for the state of the world, and the lives of too many people. That's not exaggeration, it is the truth. For many people these are difficult times. But, each week, each week after a full seven days of bumping into obstacles, a light appears. It is a small light. One candle-power. It gives enough light to give us hope against the darkness. Each week we will add light to the darkness. It is a process. It is a journey. It is our approach to the birth of the Christ Child. That great news begins in the darkness. The first words of our Wednesday Advent worship will be "Jesus Christ is the light of the world." One small light stands against the darkness.

I know the disconnect between the focus of Advent readings and the festive call of our culture. I cringe, some years, when families choose to come to worship during Advent to "get some of the Christmas Spirit" only to walk away scratching their heads. There is "an expectation" that worship in these weeks before Christmas will be more.....cultural. If the malls can play "I'll be Home for Christmas", why can't we sing "Silent Night?" We will.....in time.

Advent is that time between the rings of a bell. If you have even heard a large bell peel, you know that the clapper must travel from the first strike to the other side for the second strike. That short distance of silence is Advent. We will soon hear the second strike, the Good News of Christ's birth.....but not yet. It is Advent, and it is peculiar.

I want to encourage you to step into Advent with both feet. Join us for worship each Sunday. Join us for supper each Wednesday, and Holden Evening Prayer following supper. Show your support of our confirmands as they "Affirm their Baptism" on Sunday, December 23rd, at one service at 10:00 a.m. Invite your friends, neighbors, family, and more to worship Christmas Eve.

Our traditional service will be at 4:00 p.m. This time gives families time for supper, and enables those who don't drive after dark to attend. It will be a service of Carols and Candlelight, simple in format and very familiar in carols and the Christmas message.

Our neo-traditional service will be at 8:00 p.m. This service includes traditional carols, new Christmas music, Holy Communion, Candlelight, and the Christmas message. We, the Praise Team, have resurrected a song written for us by Merri Dee Snider, back when we were just getting going.

Remember, the theme of Advent is simple: Light enters the darkness, and the darkness gives way to Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Let that be so!

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Alan



Annual Meeting of the New Spirit Lutheran Church Congregation

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held, **Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. All confirmed members “in good standing” are expected to attend.



To be “in good standing” requires you to have received communion and given a gift of record (financial contribution recorded as tithe/offering) in the past year. The gift of record was given as a check, or using your assigned offering envelope. Unidentified cash offerings are not credited to members.

Sign-in for the meeting is legally required so we ask that you arrive early for the 4:00 p.m. meeting to sign-in.

The agenda includes:

- Election of one at-large Church Council member,
- Election of one member to the Endowment Board,
- Appointment of two members to the Memorial Garden/Columbarium Board.
- Appointment of three members to the Nominating Committee.
- Appointment of three members to the Audit Committee.
- Presentation of the 2019 Church Budget: discussion, and vote.



The meeting will be followed by a “**Chili & Cornbread Supper**” by the **Youth Group** in preparation to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June 2021. The supper is a “**Fundraiser event**” to help offset the \$1,000/person cost to attend the Gathering.

Confirmation Sunday, December 23rd, at 10:00 a.m.

Three of our young people have completed their study and preparation for their Affirmation of Baptism. We will gather at 10:00 a.m. on that **4th Sunday of Advent**, to witness the promises made by **Amber Crace, Caitlyn Friend and Jakob Rettig**. They have been in study for quite some time, and will share with the New Spirit community the substance of their personal faith in God’s promises given in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit.

We hope to fill the church that day to celebrate with **Amber, Caitlyn and Jakob** their new life in Christ’s Church!

Prayers, cards, and gifts of encouragement are requested!



Carol Communion Service, December 30th at 10:00 a.m.

Worship the Sunday after Christmas will be at 10:00 a.m. It will be a simple, traditional Carol and Communion service.

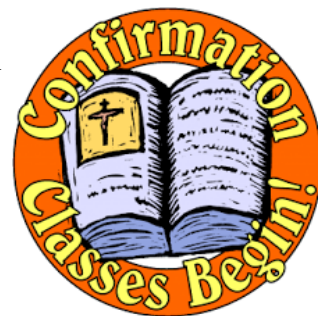
We will return to our two-service schedule on **Sunday, January 6th**.

New Confirmation Class will begin its voyage on **Sunday, January 13th**, at 12:15 p.m. in Room 105. We have quite a large group beginning their journey to fashion and form their faith and life. **There will be a meeting of parents and youth with Pastor Alan between Services on Sunday, Dec. 9th in Room 105.**

Our goal is to Celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism in May 2020 which is only 18 months away.

To help this group of young people to complete this journey, we will be asking for adults to serve as **“Confirmation Guides”** for the coming 18 months.

Information for Confirmation Guides will be available in the church office after the 1st of the New Year.



Wednesday Evening Suppers and classes resume: January 9th.

Pastor Alan will be offering a class on death and dying ***“Now I lay me down to sleep.....”*** The course is intended to help give participants a “vocabulary to talk about death and dying” with your families. We will talk very matter-of-factly about death and its role in this life.

Pastor Alan served as the Hospice Chaplain in Payson for eight years, and provided training for Hospice volunteers on the “Spirituality of Dying.”



The class will be held on Wednesdays January 9, 23, 30, and February 6 at 4:00 p.m. and at 6:15 p.m. The class is open to everyone.

WELCA-DEBORAH'S GATHERING BIBLE STUDY met November 14th.

Gloria Burke, Barbara Rebok, Linda Lamb and her daughter Stephanie attended the Grand Canyon Synod convention in Phoenix. One of the main speakers was Pastor Meghan Aelabouni who wrote the current Bible Study in the Gather magazine we use for our study.

Our study is on A Time for Faithful Repentance-what does it mean and why is repentance important in the life of Christian faith? Our focus verse comes from 1 John 1:8-9. We pray it every Sunday!

We discussed what happens when the church repents because of racism, anti-Judaism and other attitudes and practices that lead away from God, some from Luther's time.

The Gather magazine is used for our study which is just one section. There are many other articles besides the study which are life stories. We place our extra monthly magazines on the WELCOME table in the Narthex and invite women to take them home and read the articles!!

Many cards were sent out by Sandra Colwell for birthdays, church visitors, illnesses, and other changes people have had to make. We put together handmade Christmas cards that are sent to people who can no longer come to church. Joyce Dow brings materials she has cut for us to use. Watch the Narthex board for a sample of the cards. When we make cards for special times in the year, anyone is welcome to help even if you don't come to study.

We thank all the women who donated to the Thank offering again this year. This goes for church wide ministries.

Our December meeting date is changed to the 1st Wednesday in December which is December 5th at 3 p.m. in room 105. It will consist of Readings, Carols, Family practices in Christmas past, present and future. All women in the church and visitors are welcome to participate. Gloria Burke, Secretary

Just a reminder that we continually collect the following items: Aluminum cans for the youth, aluminum pull tabs for the Ronald Mc Donald House, Box Tops for Education coupons for the Navajo Mission School at Rock Point, AZ and PLASTIC bottle caps (no metal!!!) to be sent to Mexico where every thousand gets a cancer treatment for a child. Items can be placed in the drawers in the back cupboard of the Narthex. Any questions, ask Gloria Burke



Community Food Bank Vegetable Distribution is returning on **Saturday, January 5th**. We will distribute veggies on the **1st Saturday of each month January – May**.

We need volunteers to help set-up for the vegetable distribution, and take-down after the Food Bank closes. We need two groups to distribute. The early group (9:00-11:00) arrives at 9:00 a.m. when the veggies arrive. They will set up tables and the distribution lanes. The late group (11:00 – 1:00) will distribute veggies, and take down the distribution lanes. Sign-up sheets are on the Magnet Board in the Narthex.



Thank you to all who donated Adult Pajamas for the Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest's Holiday Project for 2018. A gift-wrapping party will be held at the LSS-SW offices located at 6303 E. Tanque Verde Ste. 101 on December 12th from 1-4 pm. If you plan on attending let Nancy in the office know so that we can give them a head count to ensure enough space.

Sonoran Bells will have their holiday concert again.
The Title is: Christmas Kaleidoscope.
Concert places and dates are--Sunday Dec. 9th, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Alban's Episcopal Church on Sabino Canyon Rd.
Sunday December 16th. , 2018 at 3:30 p.m. at St Paul's United Methodist Church.



Did you know?

When Phil Pierce, our VP, informed us that he was leaving to be with family, we all were initially shocked. What would council do in the new year with no leadership? But, quickly it was resolved due to everyone's generosity. Susan Armstrong agreed to lead us again next year. Brigitte Stuetze agreed to her role of president ex officio, Terry Wolfe agreed to continue as treasurer and David Grundstrom is switching from member at large to VP.

All for the glory of God.

Now it's your turn! There are many jobs that need attention here at New Spirit. SAY YES!

December Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

12/4 Carol Brennan
R.J. Friend

12/6 Joel & Barbara Carty
(Anniversary)

12/9 Sandra Johnsen

12/12 Joyce Dow



12/15 Amber Uidenich

12/19 Carol Morales

12/20 Marilyn Carter

12/26 Linda Lamb

12/27 Laurie Bernard

12/30 Don Austin
Eva Kwapich
Sarah Elmquist,
Ethan Rettig



November's Saturday event brought us 50 people ready for a hot meal of Chicken a la King, noodles, salad, biscuits, and desserts. 20 of them received tarps, blankets, hats, gloves, coats and warm socks in preparation for the colder weather coming. The remaining 30 have homes but struggle financially. We provided 1-day bus passes, access to housing, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, and clothing. We had a generous donation of camping equipment from Ron and Cathy Cermak that was much appreciated and went fast! The next Saturday event will be December 8th from 1-3pm.

PLEASE DONATE FOR THE WINTER:

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S NEW UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS
BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS, WARM JACKETS
SHOES
FLASHLIGHTS
AA AND AAA BATTERIES
FULL SIZE SHAMPOO, LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT
RAZORS AND SHAVING CREAM
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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



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.



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. 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.

Your donation of \$100 feeds 1 child every weekend for the entire school year. **MAKE A CHRISTMAS 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!

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*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE BLESSINGS TEAMS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT- *Barbara Miller for working on the weeds by the north parking lot for several weeks.*

SHOUT OUT - *November hospitality team.*

SHOUT OUT - *November Wednesday cook team.*

SHOUT OUT - *November workday crew & breakfast cooks.*



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

How to contact us:

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