

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Greg Hartman,
Pastor

New Spirit Lutheran Church
*Our faith is in Jesus.
Our hope is in grace.
Our strength is in love.*

December 2022

Bearers of God's Light in the World,

It is hard to believe that we have entered the last month of the year. December 7th marks the one-year anniversary of my family having a place to live here in Tucson. The last 12 months have been full of a lot! If you are like me there has been a mix of emotions and events throughout the year. There were moments of great joy and sorrow, moments of celebration and frustration, and moments we wanted to last forever and others that we wanted over as soon as possible. Now we enter the final month, a month that is full of anticipation, joy, and even sorrow. It is important to recognize that this "most wonderful time of year" may also be the saddest time of year as well. It is ok to feel whatever emotions you feel this time of year.

On one hand we are joyfully looking forward to the coming of Emmanuel, and on the other we can feel sorrow for those that are not with us. The important thing is to recognize those feelings and embrace them for what they are. They are a reminder that life can be and often is messy! It is into this messy life that God enters as a baby born in a manger.

God enters this messy world to be with us, you, and me! God is with us in the messiness of life, walking along side of us as we navigate what is ahead. When you really think about it that sounds impossible. The very creator of the universe, enters into the world as a baby and continues to be with us!?!? That is part of the magic of Christmas, the impossible being possible. We hear about it often during this time of year, Christmas movies and songs are full of the message of the impossible being possible. As believers in Christ, we also have the comfort of knowing that when those amazing things don't happen or when we are feeling anything but the joy of Christmas that God is with us in those moments too.

I look forward to celebrating this time of year with all of you regardless of where you find yourself. We are bound to establish new traditions together while also honoring the traditions that are already established. I also look forward to what 2023 will bring us as individuals, as a congregation, and as a community committed to following the baby born in the manger!

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven" - Ecclesiastes 3:1

In Advent Anticipation,

Pastor Hartman



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Come celebrate Christmas at New Spirit, and please invite your friends, too. We will worship on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. The services will be, for all intents and purposes, identical. Then, on Sunday, Dec. 25, come for a service of Lessons and Carols at our usual worship time, 10:00am.



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING!!! Important Date: Be sure to save it to your calendar! We will hold our 2022 annual congregation meeting on Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 11:15 immediately following our worship service. Voting will be held for the 2023 operating budget, open council and committee positions, constitution changes and bylaw amendments and provide an opportunity for everyone to hear updates on what's going on at New Spirit and plans for the new year. You don't want to miss this! The success and vitality of our congregation requires all of us coming together for God's work! Packets for the congregational meeting are forthcoming.

Christmas Day service: Who doesn't want to stay cozy and comfy on Christmas morning?! No need to get fancy for Christmas Day service. We invite you to wear your holiday jammies for our 10am Sunday worship service on December 25th. Wanna go over the top and get extra wild? Wear your slippers too!!! Just no falling asleep during Pastor's sermon. Wink, wink!



December Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

12/9 Sandra Johnsen

12/12 Joyce Dow

12/19 Carol Morales

12/20 Marilyn Carter



12/20 Paul Koster

12/26 Linda Lamb

12/27 Laurie Bernard

12/30 Eva Kwapich
Sarah Elmquist
Ethan Rettig

Ugly Christmas Sweater



UGLY SWEATER DAY!! On Sunday, December 11th, come to church in your favorite Christmas sweater! The uglier the better! Not sure what an ugly sweater is? Here are some tell-tale signs you're looking at a truly ugly sweater.

- * It features at least 3 different colors
- * It would make your granny proud
- * It makes no sense - think T-Rex in a Santa hat
- * It's impossible to ignore or not look

Can't wait to see who wears it best!!!!

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

Join us on December 11th to see our youth of New Spirit lead worship.



The holidays can be a difficult time for many. On December 18th, we will be having a Blue Christmas service to recognize those "blue" moments that can occur this time of year.

TAX SITE INFORMATION

It will soon be that time once again to file taxes. After 15 years of hosting the tax site, regretfully it will not be held here at New Spirit next tax season. Immanuel Presbyterian Church and Wilmot Library are a few other locations that you can contact to have your taxes done with AARP. When we have additional information for other tax site locations and times we will post the information on the bulletin board in the Narthex and on New Spirit's website. You can also search for AARP tax help or VITA online. Have a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

John E. Lukecart



Women's Ministry Group

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on November 9, 2022, at the church.

Our Bible Study was Session Three of Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith. In this session, Jesus turns our attention to birds, compares himself to a hen and honors the value of a sparrow. We will nest ourselves alongside birds and mammals, celebrating the gift of our creatureliness. After considering creatures at the nativity and the donkey at Palm Sunday, we jumped back to the book of Job, where God describes creation and our place in the world. Jesus encourages us to look at the birds and claim our own value and responsibility. Jesus, our Holy Hen, gathering us up in wings of love.

A special thank you to all of you that gave so generously at our Quilting Bee Tea to aid in postage fees for Lutheran World Relief. As a result, we received the following thank you note from Lutheran World Relief for our generous offering to aid in postage fees mailing quilts around the world.

"Your gift couldn't have come at a better time. We've received a record number of requests from our partners around the world for LWR Quilts and Kits of Care. Your gift helps get these gifts of love from the hands of Lutherans in the U.S. to people in need in some of the world's poorest communities. Thank you for your gift!"

Sandy Cooper led devotions. We each shared with the group facts and stories related to our favorite birds.

Sandra Colwell reported that the Sunday School will be doing part of the service on December 11th. They are also preparing inspirational cards to include with the first aid kits to be handed out to the homeless.

Dates to Remember: Kino Conference to be held at Desert Hills of Green Valley in March 2023.

The week of September 18, 2023 – Triennial in Phoenix.

Our next meeting will be held on December 14, 2022, at 12:30, at the church for a potluck lunch. Following lunch, we will assemble Christmas cards for our shut-ins and each of us will perform a monolog and then sing our favorite Advent songs.



Linda Lamb – Secretary



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?

As the new school year progresses, we are adding even more hungry children. Our count is now 325 from Erickson, Ford, Steele, and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend, up from 320 last month. We provide weekend snacks for almost 40% of the students at one of our schools. As you can see, the need is great.

The Blessings Team will be hosting a special Christmas packing event on December 18 during Fellowship Hour after church service. Join us in packing and help us feed our 325 students for the weekend!

Dave and Joanne Kingston, our winter visitors from Michigan, are helping with packing and deliveries. Rick Firth has taken over the garden duties and is tending to our fruit trees. "T" Baker is still getting us supplemental food from the food bank. John Lukehart and Craig Geiger are delivering. Lorrie Firth, Doug Butler, Joyce Dow, Marlene Hansen, Phyllis Wagner, Sarah Elmquist, Sarah Drath, Monica Fuller, and Paul Stuetze are packing. Cathy and Ron Cermak are purchasing food. Marty Mosthaff coordinates packing Tuesdays and is all-around right-hand man!

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, delivery, and gardening.**

There is a sign up sheet in the hall near the mail slots. Packing is done on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. We work best with 6-8 people packing. Deliveries are done in the mornings after packing (if you want to help deliver, you can pick the day you are available).

Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com with questions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

JOIN US THE 2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
OCTOBER THRU APRIL 1PM TO 3PM

SOME PETS ARE HOMELESS TOO
WE NOW COLLECT OLD TOWELS AND BEDDING
FOR
THE PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER

Our ministry has received 60 sleeping bags and a \$3500 grant from the City of Tucson. We have purchased backpacks, socks, underwear, gloves, hats, baby wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and flashlights to supply us for most of the year!

We are starting to see some new faces and familiar ones coming back as the word gets out. The Office of the Police Examiner, Hope, and Old Pueblo Community Services regularly attend to help any clients needing housing, intervention, or other help. *Our next event is December 10th. Menu this month is lasagna.*

A few of our clients are bringing their pet companions to our monthly events, so we are now providing some dog food and treats. Also, as a bonus, we collect old towels and bedding for Pima Animal Care Center.

Cold nights are upon us. If you have clothing, shoes, socks, or blankets/sleeping bags, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. As the weather gets cooler, we need jackets, hats, and gloves. We are always in need of shoes. We can always use monetary contributions to help pay for new underwear, hygiene products, flashlights, backpacks, batteries, tarps, and now dog food!

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



Thanks to everyone who supported the Holiday Pajama Drive. Your generosity is as always above and beyond!

Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT - To Craig for helping out and covering when needed.

SHOUT OUT - To the council for their continued dedication to New Spirit.

SHOUT OUT - To Brigitte Stuetze, Shelley Colwell, Barbara Wadler, Jenny Kwapich and Pastor Hartman for tackling the necessary constitution and by-law amendments.

SHOUT OUT - To the Budget and Finance team for their efforts in creating our proposed budget.

SHOUT OUT - To Robert and the praise team for leading us in lifting our voices every week.

SHOUT OUT - To the Colwell's for their endless efforts in children's ministry and the planned Christmas program.

SHOUT OUT - To our ushers, proofreaders, altar-care, tech/media, greeters, hospitality teams, welcoming team, and anyone else who contributes to our ministry. We couldn't do it without all of you!



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

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 to be placed in the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

<p>Sundays:</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.</p>	<p><i>How to contact us:</i></p> <p>New Spirit Lutheran Church 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85710</p> <p>Phone: (520) 296-2461</p> <p>E-Mail: NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com</p> <p>Website: newspiritlutherantucson.org</p>
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