

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

February 2019

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

I'm not sure if I'm up for another "campaign season" as we look forward to the 2020 elections. I say that because sound bites echo loudly in the media, while real matters of life and life's struggles are shifted to "the back burner." With divergent and confusing accusations rising daily there is a reality of life that goes unnoticed.

Public housing in Tucson is rare. As many of you know we have welcomed the eastside homeless camp residents to share Wednesday evening suppers, and Homeless Blessings each 2nd Saturday of the month. Public housing is an economic matter. Tucson could house every homeless person in protected housing. We could, if we wanted to.

Medical costs have increased hyperbolically, as regulations are eased on big pharma. We have members and neighbors who are having to decide whether to cut their pills in half, or in quarters....or buy food. That is the reality of life today.

Insurance costs rise, scams seek to defraud us of our liquid cash. Utilities have risen steadily over the past decade. While the news will report "incomes have risen 13% in the past year, most of that increase is a result of mandates to raise the minimum wage. That 13% is not making anybody, rich. It's not.

Well, happy Epiphany! Now for an alternative-reality. The season of Epiphany shines a spotlight on Jesus, the baby of the Bethlehem stable, now baptized and let loose in the world. Jesus stands in the spotlight, and calls us to step-up to the radical call of grace and mercy. See, neither of those topics comes to the evening news. Neither of them are mentioned on Fox, CNN, MSNBC, or any news outlet. How come? Why have we grown silent about the just treatment of our brothers and sisters? Why do we continue to hold up our NIMBY signs....not in my backyard? Who are we seeking to protect? Is it us?

If so, this year I want to invite you to commit to worship every Sunday remaining in 2019. We are in "the Year of Luke." And when you come to worship you will hear Jesus calling us to live.....differently. He is going to tell us in the Parables, like the Good Samaritan, and the Prodigal Son. Jesus is going to hold up a mirror reflecting the world we live in, and he will frame that view with a radical call to mercy, and giving grace. Jesus is the one voice that can re-order this life with the truth of God's justice.

I believe that this year, particularly, God is going to call us to "get out of our heads and into the world." Jesus is going to show us in very practical terms how love, grace and mercy practiced together produce the life-blood of communities.

This year, I will be encouraging you to re-orient your world views. Jesus will ask us to step away from our food waste, from our wasted physical energy, from our cynical attitudes toward how this community works....and teach you ways to share more often, and to demand less often. I want to encourage you to develop your love-language, and to set aside the criticisms and complaints. I want to cheer you on as you set time aside everyday to pray for this world, and those who are the least, the last, the little, and the lone.

It is February in the desert, and we have room to grow. ...in lots of areas in our lives. Will you join me on the journey?

Prayerfully,

Pastor Alan



I am honored to serve New Spirit as the Council Vice President in 2019. We are blessed with many caring members who support our ministry in many different ways. The council as a whole is very interested in supporting those in any way we can as they assist in meeting the needs of the broad community that we serve. A phrase that has always been a part of how I approach challenges that arise is that “we as a council make change work”. Change is a part of life and adapting to the ebbs and flows of life is a reality we all deal with.

One of the biggest changes we face as a congregation is how people of today chose to select where and how they chose to worship. A startling statistic is that 87% of individuals choose a site of worship because they were invited to attend a service by a neighbor or friend. I along with all the council members encourage everyone to offer that invitation to attend a New Spirit Service to someone you know. It may very well make a big difference in their lives as well as in yours.

Dave Grundstrom



The memorial service for Allan Wedemeier will be held here at New Spirit Lutheran Church Thursday, February 14th at 10:00 am. Allan passed away October 26, 2018.



Confirmation Class



Did you know the “new” Confirmation Class has TEN students???

What does this mean for our life together? A ton. I am so excited to offer these young people the ways of grace, and the promise of mercy. I am ready to teach them new (to them) games, my favorite of which is called “*Animals*”. I want to prep these youth for camp, for Super Group and for the next ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June, 2021.

I am so excited to have these young people now looking at matters of faith!

So.....I need something from all of you. I need you to introduce yourself to each of our youth. I need for you to befriend one or two. Tell them about you, your life, your work, your family, your fears, your dreams, your joys. I need for you to make a covenant with the youth and their parents that you are willing to shepherd them through the coming 17 months.

I invite you to join me on **Sunday, February 24th between services** in Room 105. I will invite you to meet our youth, and make a commitment to one of them for the coming 17 months, until May, 2020. You will accompany the youth through their confirmation time. You will learn about their school and home life. You will learn about their dreams and desires. And you will be the presence of God’s grace and mercy to them.

In the coming weeks we will publish a “Teen Covenant Statement” that will connect you with one of our “kids.” I think this is a very, very important step to take with these youth. We have ten Confirmation students...that’s insane!!!!



Easter is very late this year, Sunday, April 21st. The Season of Lent will begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 6th.** Midweek Lenten Services will be held at 6:15 p.m. after Suppers on Wednesdays.



“Now I lay me down to sleep...I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

The four-week course **“Can We Talk About Death?”** clearly identified a subject that we need to talk about. Death is assured for all of us, but we simply do not have a vocabulary to talk about it. Our Wednesday classes were attended by stand-room-only crowds. If you missed taking the class this winter, it will be offered again in the Fall.



Esther Whitehead died last Spring. A nurse for 30 years, she willed her body to the medical school at U of A. That study is now complete, and Esther is ready to be inurned in the Columbarium. We will lay Esther Whitehead to rest on Sunday, February 10 following the 9:00 service. Her remains will be present in worship that day because Esther loved the 9:00 service.

We give thanks to God for the witness of Esther among us for so many years.



Deborah's Gathering WELCA Bible Study Group met on January 9, 2019

Thinking-of-you cards and birthday cards have been sent out by Sandra.

It was voted to send \$100 of project funds to the Shriner's organization for their transportation fund which brings children from Mexico to Tucson clinics.

Joyce is researching how to donate money to a medical ship fund.

Sunrise/Santa Cruz conference will be March 2, 2019 in Green Valley. The theme is Proverbs 3:5 (Trust in the Lord with all your heart: do not depend on your own heart.) We will lead devotions.

Suggestions were made to paint one or two of the Sunday School rooms with help from the older children. This would be done in the summer.

Joyce requested that we find more church outreach projects and bring our ideas to the February meeting.

Suggestions were helping clean up the kitchen and organizing the church library.

The WELCA and Sunday School bulletin boards will switch locations.

The next meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 2:00 p.m. in room 105. Sandy will lead devotions and Marilyn will lead the lesson.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME !



Food Bank Vegetable, Fruit and Bread Distribution

Our February 2nd **Veggie Distribution** is a “Justice Ministry”. We will receive up to 2,000-3,000 pounds of fresh, good quality vegetables, fruits and bread products. We need people to volunteer for one of two shifts: 9:00 – 11:00 sets up tables and distributes produce and bread. The 11:00 – 1:00 shift distributes produce and bread and takes down tables. The produce and bread are free to those who come.



SALCA Reunion – Saturday- February 16th – 4:00-6:00 p.m. @ Streams in the Desert

ATTENTION SALCA campers, former campers, and staff..... SALCA (Southern Arizona Lutheran Camping Association) is having a reunion with camp games, songs, connections and supper! It will be a great way to re-connect with past-staff and campers!!!

Sign up by February 10th to ensure they have enough food. Campers, parents, siblings are all welcome!!!! Streams in the Desert is on Pima Street just west of Craycroft. Parking lot is in the rear.



We thank everyone for your prayers, cards and phone calls while Steve faced two surgeries on his foot and the extensive recovery time. It has been a challenging time for both of us and we are extremely grateful for all of your support and kindness. There is still a ways to go; but we are confident that the healing process will continue.
Steve and Linda Lamb

Tax Season is here!!

The New Spirit/AARP Tax Site volunteers are here again to help you file your taxes. **Don't pay someone to do your taxes!** Our tax aides are trained and experienced. They can most likely do your return and it will be free. All returns are double checked for accuracy and electronically filed.

We are open from 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM on Thursdays and Fridays and from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on Saturdays. Contact John Lukehart at 520-885-8182 or Terry Mysak at 520-784-1341 if you have questions.



In Memory.....



We received word that Stan Horley died on Sunday, January 27th. Stan and Lee Horley were charter members of Spanish Trail Lutheran Church, members since the very early days of this ministry. With failing health in both Stan and Lee we have not seen them lately. Lee lives at Fellowship Square, and we are hoping she will find peace and comfort from your care for her. At Stan's request there will not be a funeral or memorial service.

In Memory.....

Margaret Benson passed away January 29th. A Memorial Service will be scheduled soon, and we will let you know the date and time.

Margaret will be cremated, and she will be inurned with her husband, Pastor Harry Benson, at the Lutheran Church in Arizona City, AZ, near Casa Grande.



February Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

2/1 Lori Bolin

2/2 Ellie Thompson

2/7 Trinity Garibay

2/10 Ken & Sharon Dobbs
(Anniversary)



2/18 Brenda Feller
Harry Bolin

2/20 Toni Nemetz
Sarah Drath

2/24 Sandra Colwell

2/25 Sandy Cooper
Jeremy Kwapich

2/27 Robert Short



For a lot of kids,
food is their most
important school supply.
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.

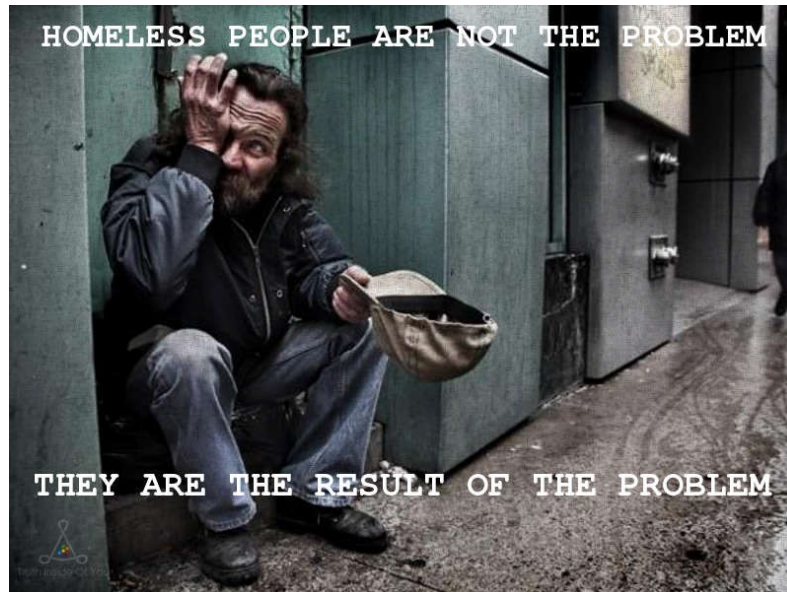
Your donation of \$100 feeds 1 child every weekend for the entire school year. **MAKE A GIFT TO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILD THIS YEAR.**

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*



DO YOU SEE THEM ON THE STREET? WE DO....AND WE HELP THEM SURVIVE

It's tough on the streets. Some of their stories are heartbreaking. Mental health, alcohol, and drug issues are just part of the problem. These are also people who have just had a perfect storm of health, employment, and financial issues and now find themselves homeless. **THEY COULD BE YOU OR ME.**

Our event the 2nd Saturday of each month has representatives from Old Pueblo Community Services, City of Tucson, and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live.

New Spirit's Homeless Blessings Team provides a hot meal, tarps, blankets, hats, gloves, coats and warm socks, 1-day bus passes, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, and clothing.

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



Thank you for being part of the Lutheran World Relief family. From providing aid in emergencies to working with families to grow food, build rural livelihoods and create more stable futures, your support is truly making amazing things happen in the world, which is why I'm excited about the news I'm sharing with you today. Founded by U.S. Lutherans at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief is called to break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive.

To increase our impact, and promote healthier families and communities around the world, **Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health — a humanitarian organization that provides solutions to health-related problems in the developing world — are excited to announce we are joining forces.**

We know that rural livelihoods and health are intrinsically linked. A family in poverty can scarcely afford health care. A sick breadwinner may be unable to earn income. Together we will help transform the lives of millions more people around the world.

[I invite you to learn more about this evolution by visiting our website.](#)

We remain an organization rooted in the Lutheran values upon which we were founded, and this new partnership will increase the impact of your generosity and compassion around the world.

Thank you for your enduring support of our mission. We look forward to working with you to create healthy communities, build sustainable livelihoods, reduce hunger and suffering — to end extreme poverty.

In Gratitude,

Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT- *To Dave and Joanne Kingston - Winter Blessings in a Backpack Team members*

SHOUT OUT - *To the “crew” who participated with Packathon at St. Paul.*

SHOUT OUT - *January hospitality team.*

SHOUT OUT - *To Ron & Cathy Cermak for bringing boxes from Packathon to NSLC.*

SHOUT OUT - *January Wednesday cook team.*

SHOUT OUT - *To James West for faithfully bringing his grandson, Dom, who loves Children’s Sermons.*

SHOUT OUT - *To Don Crow - Homeless Blessings Team.*

SHOUT OUT - *To Parents of Confirmation students, making sure they show up for class.*

SHOUT OUT - *To Don Austin, Dave Lynch, and Steve Lamb - Media Techs.*

SHOUT OUT - *To Don Crow, Ken Dobbs and John Lukehart for undecorating our chancel and roof.*



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
Classes

How to contact us:

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