

# *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 2020

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

This past Fall the Praise Team introduced a song entitled “No Matter What.” Its lyrics are kind of haunting, yet kind of relieving. They speak of the difficulty of living our lives in this broken world, and the effects that brokenness has upon our hearts and souls. We don’t have to look too far to see that brokenness. And then, comes the chorus that affirms and reaffirms the promise.....that God’s love comes to us, no matter what you’ve done.

As we seek to do the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ here in east Tucson, it can be easy to think the ministry is here for us. The promise of forgiveness is “for us.” The grace of God, love unbound, is “for us.” The buildings, heating/air conditioning, food during coffee fellowship is “for us.” But, that isn’t the mission of the church. That forgiveness we claim is for the strangers we avoid (xenophobia), and those we deem enemies (enmity). If our faith and trust in Jesus has become more of an entitlement to us, than a calling to share the Good News with our neighbors, then I have failed you.

My oft-mentioned “lazy-boy recliner of faith” is that very “entitled” position that I have preached and taught about. The comfort of our “beliefs” can become the limiter of our faith. Jesus calls us to follow, not to sit in our same-old-places. Jesus speaks to us in images that are intended to stretch our common notions, while encouraging us to look further and deeper into our living relationship with the living God.

The church council will be going on retreat at the end of this month, and we will do the difficult work of looking beyond our “good-enough” ministry mentality to become a better and more vibrant ministry.

The season of Epiphany is the time that the spotlight of heaven shines upon Jesus. He is the reason for our hope and faith. He has shown us the nature of God’s welcoming love. He has shown us the wide open arms of mercy that are stretched to welcome everyone no matter their political persuasion, immigration status, economic confidence, medical condition, various dependencies and addictions, and hopes. This is the time we get to be church. While many will reminisce about days gone by, the reality of 2020 is what we have. The same issues matter: what is our commitment to teaching our children and youth of God’s grace in Jesus? What is our commitment to welcome, no, to invite people to witness the Gospel celebrated at New Spirit? What will be our next new adventure?

“Faith is not a destination. It is the journey of a lifetime born in the waters of our baptism and leading us confidently into unknown futures until even, the moment of our final breath.” From then on, it’ll be a party and a feast. How about you?

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Alan



## Why the Senegal trip?

In the days following Christmas, Bishop Deborah and I flew to Senegal, Africa to meet with Lutheran pastors and their Bishop Adama Faye (rhymes with sigh). The Lutheran Church of Senegal is our Global Ministry Companion Church. We went to continue the process called “Accompaniment” by the ELCA.

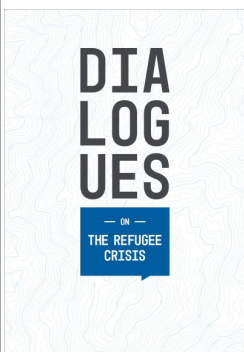
In the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35) is the story of two men who were walking back to their village, Emmaus, on Easter evening. Luke tells us that as they walked, Jesus accompanied them. On that journey they spoke of many things. “Accompaniment ministry” draws people to walk with one another on this journey of faith. For the past eight years, small groups of Grand Canyon Synod members have travelled to Senegal to meet the members of the Senegalese Lutheran Church. In the past years groups of Senegalese Lutherans have come to the States, particularly the Grand Canyon Synod, and have visited and experienced ministry in a number of settings. Last January a group of young adults visited Arizona and were introduced to a few of our congregations, and the sites of living in God’s favorite place! A snowstorm altered their plans, so they could drive to Flagstaff and see snow fall for the first time in their lives! We met those five young people and were amazed by their stories and excited recall of new friends made.

President Adama Faye was our guide, driver, dinner companion, and host for our eight days there. He is a most gracious and wise man, all of 36 years old! We ate dinner with his family one night. We saw many sites, and in the months to come I will share more about our trip, but more, more about the Lutheran Church in Senegal which is filled with a lively and powerful Spirit calling them to proclaim the Good News. It was both amazing and humbling to see their work, and hear about their amazing faith. We could learn a thing or two. We’ll see.



## ***Conversations on the Refugee Crisis***

Although the news has turned its cameras away from refugee detention facilities, the plight of families and children continues. The Christian Church has always been a safe-place for refugees seeking safety for their children, and the promise of a better life that we call the “American Dream.”



In five video-discussions participants will learn about refugee ministry, and the possibilities that give hope to those who seek a better life for their children.

Renee Geiger is leading this discussion on Wednesdays, at 4:00 p.m. The video portion of each Wednesday will be shown in the Sanctuary. The discussion will continue in Room 105. Thank you, Renee, for leading this group!

## **Our Lenten Journey**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.



**Lent begins Ash Wednesday – Feb. 26th** This year, with so many of our members unable to come out after dark, we will offer a **Spoken Service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 4 p.m.** We will offer an evening service as well at 6:30 p.m. for families with children and those who work. There will be a **potluck supper at 5:30 p.m.** for those attending the services.



## DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH NEW SPIRIT MAKES A DIFFERENCE?

Since my article last year, we have seen New Spirit furthering our community outreach efforts, locally and internationally. Interfaith Community Services and Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, along with the Medical Loan Chest have expanded. The community garden continues to provide healthy food choices. Blessings in a Backpack and Homeless Blessings have grown to include more hungry children (10,200 weekend snack packs) and adults (500 last year from our monthly events) being served. Thanksgiving Dinner at Arizona Beer House has increased in size each year to share a meal with more people (this year was our 4<sup>th</sup>!). The tax site prepared 1200 tax returns last year. Meals from the Heart delivers food to our homebound members.

New Spirit Women in Ministry supports many causes: Ronald McDonald House and the Navajo Mission School in Mexico; Fellowship of the Least Coin (international organization that give grants throughout the world in Christian projects); St Matthews Church (ordinary plastic screw caps from bottles for breast cancer mammograms in Mexico); prepares family meals during memorial services; funds for NSLC project backpacks; financial assistance for a medical nurse, Brittany, on a ship docked off the coast of Africa; cards to New Spirit shut-ins; funds to Shriners for transportation costs to bring children from Mexico to Tucson clinics; funds to Lutheran World Relief for the Bahamas storm; funds to help with meals delivered to New Spirit shut-ins.

Sunday School is teaching our children about a life of service to Christ and our community by gathering items for Lutheran Social Services' refugees. Last year, 40 comfort bags were delivered to the Cancer Center at University Medical Center; 200 Christmas cards with music CDs were sent to Veterans; 20 Christmas cards were sent to our NSLC shut-ins. They are also making scarves for Wings for Women, an organization dedicated to empowering homeless and impoverished women and children.

New Spirit can do even more to spread Jesus' love and mercy....with your help. It doesn't have to be physically challenging. You can write thank you notes and cards, make phone calls to shut-ins, answer phones, talk with people.

*What are your God given talents?* Learn them and use them. Find a team that shares your passions and start now.



**JOIN US! FEEL THE JOY OF GIVING YOUR TIME. PUT A SMILE ON SOMEONE'S FACE. GIVE A HUG. SHARE THE LOVE, EVERY DAY.**

Laurie Bernard, Church Council Member at Large

Thank you to New Spirit members who gave gifts that totaled \$200 to the SOS fund in 2019. The only way SOS is funded is by gifts from members including their special money from Thrivent. No money comes from the church budget!!  
**SOS TEAM**



### **Feed My Starving Children - Feb 8<sup>th</sup> - Church of the Nazarene, Oro Valley**

Feed My Starving Children is a food-ministry that provides nutritionally-engineered meals for children suffering from malnutrition in 109 countries around the world. These meal-pouches are assembled at “packing events” by volunteers.



The weekend of Feb 7-9 they are planning to pack one-million meals. We have been assigned to do our packing session at Church of the Nazarene in Oro Valley, 500 W. Calle Concordia. Our packing time is 10:15-12:15.

We will carpool from New Spirit. Please be ready to leave at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. If you drive yourself to Church of the Nazarene, please arrive there by 10:00 to check in. We will arrive at 10:00, check in, and have an orientation by a FMSC staff person.

The packing event is fun, with lots of great music, and it even gets a bit competitive as packing stations fill cases of meal packs.

The work is not strenuous, nor weight-laden. Our members will comprise a number of packing stations (8 persons per station).

Feed My Starving Children is supported by volunteers who pack. The New Spirit Endowment has supported Feed My Starving Children for 15 years. Our grants to FMSC will cover the cost of New Spirit members. If you'd like to support FMSC you are welcome to write a check on that morning.

We ask you to wear one of your New Spirit T-shirts: “I Love my Church”, or “Have you been Mercified”, or “God’s Work, Our Hands.”



**The Grand Canyon Synod Assembly will be held June 11-12 in Las Vegas,** at Community Lutheran Church. Among the guests at the Assembly will be President Adama Faye, of the Senegalese Lutheran Church. New Spirit is allotted two voting members for the Assembly. Airfare, hotel rooms, and a meal allowance is offered to our two voting members. If you'd like to be the New Spirit delegation please speak to Pastor Alan or Dave Grundstrom, Council President.

### **February Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations**

2/1 Lori Bolin	2/18 Brenda Feller Harry Bolin	2/24 Sandra Colwell
2/2 Ellie Thompson	2/20 Toni Nemetz Sarah Drath	2/25 Sandy Cooper Jeremy Kwapich
2/7 Trinity Garibay		2/27 Robert Short
2/10 Ken & Sharon Dobbs (Anniversary)		



## Women's Ministry Group Minutes for January 2020

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met on 8 January 2020 at 1:30 at the church.

Our bible study was Session One of "We Are Called" hearing God's Voice. Understand that God calls all of us; not just a select few. Identify some characteristics of "call narratives" from the Old Testament. Reflect on how we respond to God's call; consider what God might be calling us to say and do in our own particular contexts.

The meeting opened by singing the hymn "We Are Called".

Thank Offering: A shout-out to the women of New Spirit Lutheran Church will be posted in the February 2020 newsletter as a thank you for their generous donations to our Women's Ministry.

Sunshine Report: Christmas, birthday and thinking of you cards were sent.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The books in the library will be put in order on the shelves and checked to ensure each one has a card.

We invite everyone to check out the WELCA bulletin board; some of our members have shared their daily devotions through creative illustrations as to what this Advent Season has meant to them.

Sunrise Santa Cruz Conference will be held on 7 March 2020 in Sierra Vista; our group will be doing the devotions and be in charge of the ice breaker. Several members plan on attending.

The church kitchens cleaning and organizing can begin once we receive a list, from the council, of items that they want to save, based on the going green initiative.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Supplies have been donated to the Sunday School and the youth will be making hats and scarves for the homeless.

Gloria Burke will do a thank you to the Buglewicz family for keeping us up to date on Zach.

The WELCA Triennial will be held in Phoenix, AZ on 16 – 19 July 2020; inquiries will be made for assistance with housing. Gloria Burke will inquire if we have a delegate on the local level or just the synod level.

In closing we sang the hymn "Here I Am Lord".

Next meeting will be held on 12 February 2020 at 1:30 in the church. Sandy Cooper will lead devotions and Gloria Burke will have special music. Each member has been assigned a portion of the bible study to be facilitated by Joyce Dow.

Linda Lamb – Secretary





**Youth – Confirmation** The Confirmation class is on its final lap heading toward the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) on Mother's Day, May 10<sup>th</sup>. They are working on their statements of faith, and it has been eye-opening to see how challenging it can be to trust in God's grace when the world around us is saturated in tales of super-heroes, paranormal activity, and rugged individualism. When you think of it, Jesus is pretty much counter-cultural: where the world loves power and winning, Jesus calls us to be servants. While the world longs for wealth and esteem, Jesus points us to the widow who gave her last coins. While the world loves winning and victory, we cannot have a relationship with Jesus that does not include the cross. I ask you to pray for these students as they parse out their faithful statements.



*With Heartfelt  
Thanks*



My Joe's memorial on the 17th of December was a beautiful event. It was all because of the out-pouring of love that was shown to me by my friends and family and by the beautiful sermon by Pastor Alan. The wonderful songs by our dear friend Dave Foster and by the Legion Rides who did a beautiful honor tribute to my beloved husband, Joe. Thank you all so very much. Flo Vohnoutka

**In Memory – Barb Lattanzi** was diagnosed with bi-lateral pneumonia in late December, and she died on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Barb was a long-time member of Spanish Trail/New Spirit. She taught Sunday School back in the day, and was active in the Women's Ministry. Barb always had a great cheer for the UofA Wildcats. The Memorial Service for Barb Lattanzi will be **Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** Barb will be inurned in the New Spirit Columbarium following that service. She is survived by her two sons, Mark and Greg.

*The Celebration  
of Life*

*In  
Memory  
of*

**Bishop Herb Chilstrom**, the first Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, died January 19<sup>th</sup> in Green Valley. Herb was an amazing man of faith and vision. His leadership held the merging church-bodies together through the difficult days of forming and fashioning what would become the ELCA. His Memorial Service will be February 13<sup>th</sup> at Desert Hills Lutheran Church in Green Valley.

**Mardi Gras is Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.** While New Spirit will not be celebrating Mardi Gras this year, **Jay Schreiber's band, "The Quarter"**, will be playing at **Monterey Court, 505 W. Miracle Mile, Tucson, at 6:30 p.m.** Reservations are encouraged. There is a \$5/cover charge, or you can come for dinner. Phone: 207-2429.





This school year, we are feeding **290** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

A special **THANK YOU** to St. Paul's Methodist Church for donating 35 cases of vacuum-sealed, fortified oatmeal packs to supplement out weekly snack packs.

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!

***IF YOU ARE A THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING AN ACTION TEAM FOR BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK. WE WILL RECEIVE \$250 TO HELP TOWARDS THIS MINISTRY.***

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](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

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



## MEET OUR LATEST VOLUNTEERS! Mrs. Stedman's Sahuaro High School Class

It's tough on the streets. For some, it's tough to keep a roof over their head. 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 or close to it.

Our event the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month has representatives from City of Tucson and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live. Sometimes, they come and have just had their possessions stolen. During extremely cold weather, we provide emergency blankets, tarps, gloves and hats.

New Spirit's Homeless Blessings Team shares 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 JEANS – ESPECIALLY 32-34 SIZES  
BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS, WARM JACKETS  
SHOES AND SOCKS**

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

## Shout-Outs

**SHOUT-OUT** - To *January* hospitality team.

**SHOUT-OUT**- To *Work Day* volunteers.

**SHOUT-OUT** - To *our prayer warriors*, be it by phone or electronics. So appreciated!

**SHOUT-OUT**- To the *Ladies of New Spirit* for their generous donations to the Thank Offering for the Women's Ministry Group.

Please submit words of thanks and praise to Nancy at [nancy@newspiritlutheran.com](mailto: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:** 4:00 pm Adult Education

### *How to contact us:*

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