

# 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.*

February 2021

## 'WIN THE WAIT'

We didn't think of this slogan, "Win the Wait." We got it from a pastor friend who—as far as we know—may also have gotten it from someone else. But, even though it's not original, we think it perfectly captures the opportunity we have right now at New Spirit.

Our congregation just gave a ringing endorsement to the Growing Season plan, approving it by a vote of 56 to 2 at our Annual Meeting. (See p. 2 for all the results from Annual Meeting voting.) That's an energetic "Let's go!" It's a green light to get started with everything from getting the word out with high-quality postcards to organizing ourselves to follow up effectively with visitors.

But ... well ... clearly the time isn't yet right to implement those kinds of things. So we wait.

But we don't have to wait idly. At our February Church Council meeting, our new collection of council members talked over a revised time-line for aspects of the Growing Season plan and made concrete plans to start on those things we *can* start on. And it turns out there is a lot we can do, even as we wait for a return to in-person worship, and even as we wait for a time when inviting people to come join us will make more sense.

There are opportunities, right now, for you to be part of winning the wait. Are you excited by the idea of reaching new people and inviting them into a relationship with Jesus Christ and with our congregation? Your gifts and enthusiasm are needed for the Evangelism Team.

Are you committed to growing in generosity and helping others do the same? Our Stewardship Team will be working to foster a culture of generosity at New Spirit.

Get in touch with Pastor Carol if you're feeling called in either of those directions, or if you just have questions and want to talk about possibilities.

That's how we can Win the Wait—by getting busy. Waiting doesn't have to be empty time. It can be a time of preparation and even excitement.

What can we be doing? We can work on clarifying our understanding of the people around us whom we want to reach. We can design outreach materials with those folks in mind, even though they may not go out just yet. We can take a look at our space and think about any minor changes that would make it even more friendly to newcomers. And, of course, we can continue to grow deeper spiritually and work on our comfort level, talking about our faith. That way, when we meet new people, we'll be better prepared to share what we've found in Jesus Christ and what he can mean for them.

How can you, personally, contribute to the win? Pray for New Spirit, pray for the people who aren't here yet, and pray that God will show you how you can best be part of a season of growth in our congregation.

Remember what Paul said about the church in Corinth: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6). We can all be waterers, helping to keep things at our beloved church healthy and growing.

Let's make the most of the time, and ask God to use us in his Upper Story work!

With anticipation and confidence,  
Pastor Carol



## ANNUAL MEETING VOTES TALLIED

Our Annual Congregational Meeting for 2020 happened in two parts: an informational meeting online, with presentations and discussion, followed by mail-in voting. There were no nominations from the "floor" or amendments to the Growing Season proposal or the proposed budget.

Here are the results of voting:

The Growing Season proposal was adopted by a vote of 56 to 2.

The budget was approved by a vote of 55 to 2.

Jenny Kwapich received 56 votes to be elected president.

Robin Hughes received 57 votes to be elected vice-president.

Shelley Colwell received 54 voters to be elected secretary.

Susan Armstrong received 51 votes to be elected as a council member at large.

Joyce Dow received 58 votes to be elected as a council member at large.

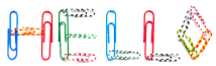
Jeremy Kwapich received 57 votes to be elected as a council member at large.

Craig Geiger received 57 votes to be elected to the Endowment Board.

Thanks to everyone who attended the informational meeting and to everyone who took the time to send in a ballot. And thanks to Sharon Dobbs and John Lukecart for tallying the votes.



## NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS



*Get to  
know us!*

### **JOYCE DOW** Member at Large

My faith journey in this place began 24 years ago. In this faith community, I have grown in my faith and gained new friends. I have had opportunities to serve such as leading Sunday school class, working in the church library, being a member of the Women's Group, WELCA--on the local, conference, and state levels. I've also been a part of Senior Fellowship and outreach missions. I am willing to serve on the council as we journey together in faith.

### **CRAIG GEIGER** Endowment Board

I'm 74 years old, born and raised in San Diego, and a life-long Lutheran. Renee and I have been married for 53 years. I attended California Lutheran University and Luther Seminary. Renee and I have two daughters and two grandsons. I served as pastor at six churches over the years and have been retired for 11 years. I've been a member of New Spirit for six years. We have a dog (Javanese) named Bob.

### **ROBIN HUGHES** Vice President

I am a 5<sup>th</sup>-generation Tucsonan and what my mother, Carol, would call a cradle Christian. I visited this church many times as a child, when my Lutheran grandma came to town. Otherwise we attended St Pius. I formally joined New Spirit when Mom and I would bring my two grandmas each Sunday. This would have been umpteen years ago! I still work full-time as a nurse and cater to my Feline Supervisor. I have served on the Church Council in the past. We have a new chapter ahead of us, and I'm ready to roll up my sleeves!

## HELPING HEARTS & HANDS

We are looking for volunteers willing to check-in with members of New Spirit Lutheran Church—especially people who are homebound and those in assisted living situations. This would entail calling someone on a weekly/bi-weekly basis and also delivering a monthly note/card with a small treat or snack. Possible ideas are:



- Baked goods
- Fresh fruit
- Favorite snack
- Library book (either from public library or church library)

Volunteers could also drop off a NSLC newsletter, copy of Living Lutheran magazine, or other information.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this new ministry, please contact Susan Armstrong at 991-4768 (cell) or email ([nordygirl58@gmail.com](mailto:nordygirl58@gmail.com)). Ideally, volunteers would make a 6-month commitment.

## COVID UPDATE

I'm tempted to write just "Who knows?" But we do have some change, finally, in where we stand with COVID-19. More and more New Spirit folks are getting their vaccinations. Although this doesn't give us a solid timeline for getting back together, it is most definitely a step in that direction. Thanks be to God for the quick development of very effective vaccines! And we ask that God would be at work in the vaccine distribution process both here and all around the world.



## LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17, an annual reminder of our mortality, our sinfulness, and our need for God's grace. The Lenten season is time to focus our thoughts on those things so that, through Holy Week and Easter, we can appreciate more fully the depth of God's sacrifice for us and the joy of resurrection.



This year, because we cannot gather in person, we'll use YouTube for brief, meditative midweek worship. We'll post services on Wednesday afternoons each week from February 24 through March 24.

We pray this will be a meaningful Lent for you, an opportunity to frame your life, with all its sorrows and joys, within the big picture of God's unending love and unstinting grace toward his people.

## NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Carol Debis-Harrell, who became a member of New Spirit on Sunday, January 31.





Dear Blessings in a Backpack program,

Steele Elementary has been constantly appreciative of the support and resources with which you've provided us since the beginning of the pandemic. This week we were able to pack 30 food bags to hand out at our curriculum distribution to the families who don't regularly receive your donations. Every bag was complete with spaghetti, tomato sauce, two cans of beans, two snack packs, and many more treats! Pictured above are students who volunteered to help pack the food bags during their lunch break.

Thank you for giving us this community service learning opportunity and continuing to provide food to our families!

Sarah Howe

## February Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

2/1 Lori Bolin

2/2 Ellie Thompson

2/7 Trinity Garibay

2/10 Ken & Sharon Dobbs  
(Anniversary)

2/17 Carol Breimeier



2/18 Brenda Feller  
Harry Bolin

2/20 Toni Nemetz  
Sarah Drath

2/24 Sandra Colwell

2/25 Sandy Cooper  
Jeremy Kwapich

# New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

## Shout-Outs

***SPECIAL NOTE:*** Due to the uncertainty of dates that the church will re-open, we have not included a calendar with this newsletter. Please check the calendar posted on the website. Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

***SHOUT OUT - To Sharon Dobbs and John Lukehart***  
*for counting the ballots.*

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!

<p><b>Sundays:</b> (in usual times)</p> <p>9:00 am Arise to Praise (Spirited Contemporary Worship)</p> <p>10:15 – 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages</p> <p>11:00 am Traditions (Classic Hymns &amp; Liturgies)</p> <p>You can currently watch services Sundays on YouTube.</p>	<p><b><i>How to contact us:</i></b></p> <p>New Spirit Lutheran Church 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85710</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> (520) 296-2461</p> <p><b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com">NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://newspiritlutherantucson.org">newspiritlutherantucson.org</a></p>
--	---