

# That's The Spirit!

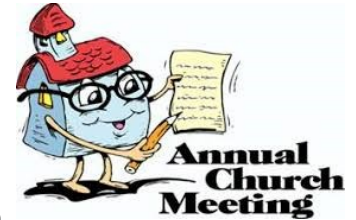
Rev. Carol Breimeier  
Rev. Fred Nelson

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

February 2022

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING IN THE BOOKS

We were able to hold the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting in person, on January 9, 2022, just making our 40-member quorum. At the meeting, the congregation:



- approved the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes,
- heard comments on the past year and the year ahead from our president and one of the pastors,
- re-elected Jenny Kwapich as president and Robin Hughes as VP,
- elected John Lukecart as a member-at-large of the Church Council,
- elected Cathy Cermak and Carol Debis-Harrell to the Endowment Board,
- heard an overview of our financial situation, and
- adopted a budget for 2022.

The office of Treasurer continues to be unfilled, as we haven't been able to identify anyone with the gifts and the willingness to take it on. Currently, the work of the treasurer is being handled by the Finance Team, with Pastor Fred as the point person.

Also noteworthy is New Spirit's financial position. On the one hand, our income vs. expenses are running roughly \$1000 short per week. On the other hand, our overall assets stand at \$4.9 million, up \$463,764 over this point last year. The budget that we proposed and adopted includes a plan to draw from restricted funds, as needed, to cover ongoing expenses.

We have been able to begin to implement some efforts under the Growing Season initiative that had been delayed by COVID. If God blesses those efforts, we have hopes of seeing our congregation grow, with new faces, new energy, and new resources adding to our life together.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, you can pick up a packet, including reports on New Spirit ministries, from the counter in the sanctuary entryway. Or, if you are unable to come to church, please call Nancy DiFebbo in the office (520-296-2461) and ask her to mail a packet to you.

## SEEKING A NEW PASTOR

Since Pastor Alan Field retired from New Spirit at the end of May 2020, we have been looking toward this time when we would launch the process of finding our next “settled” pastor. (That’s the current term for a pastor called by the congregation with an open-ended call.)

The call process has two parts: one led by a Transition Team, the next handled by a Call Committee. The Transition Team leads the congregation in self-study—looking back at our history and forward toward the next chapter. This culminates in the team compiling the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), a document that is shared with potential pastoral candidates to tell them who we are and what particular gifts and skills we hope for in our next pastoral leader.

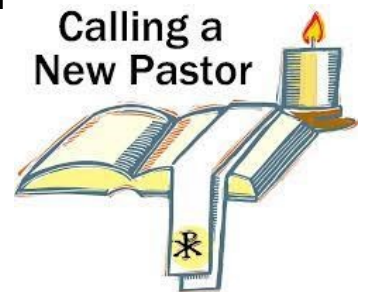
As the MSP is being completed, our Church Council appoints a Call Committee. That committee receives a corresponding document (the Rostered Minister Profile or RMP) from people interested in interviewing for the position of pastor at New Spirit. More on that when the time comes.

For now, your Transition Team has put a paper timeline out on tables in the sanctuary entryway for you to note events, ministries, etc., throughout our history. This is to help us reflect together on the life of our congregation so far. The team will also be using surveys, small group get-togethers, and one-on-one meetings to gather your thoughts on who we are, where we’ve been, where we’re going, and what kind of pastor we want/need to lead us in the years ahead.

The team’s plan is to use the next six weeks to gather input via the timeline and various brief surveys. Then March and April will be the time for small-group and one-on-one conversations. They’ll also be able to assemble some of the basic factual content of the MSP during the time between now and the end of April. Then it will likely take two to four weeks to finish writing and polishing the MSP before it gets submitted.

Serving on the Transition Team are Barb Verthein, Brigitte Stuetze, Judy McFarland, and Cathy Cermak. They are happy to talk with you!

The Grand Canyon Synod is providing us with a coach to help with both parts of this process, but especially to work with the Call Committee. Our original coach, Deacon Janice Zimbelman, has moved into the position of Director of Transitions for our synod and the Rocky Mountain Synod and has turned over coaching responsibility for New Spirit to her husband, Pastor Glenn Zimbelman.



Watch for lots more in the weeks ahead! And please be sure your voice is heard during this self-study period.

## New Year, New Faces, New Spirit



Despite another awful COVID surge, things are beginning to stir here at New Spirit. At the beginning of January, we boldly sent out nearly 18,000 specially-designed postcards to our neighbors, inviting them to rediscover their God-given purpose in life. We struck a chord, and people are responding. We're seeing more people checking out our website, watching our online messages on YouTube, reaching out to set up spiritual growth coaching conversations, and showing up for worship on Sunday mornings.

This is exciting and encouraging and an answer to prayer! But it's also just the beginning. Research and experience teach us that there are no silver bullets, no easy fixes, and no room for complacency. That's why our Evangelism Team is going to double down and get working on our *next* large postcard mailing, probably this spring. Even as we each seek to find a purpose driven life for our personal lives, we also want to be a purpose driven church—working together to help people find their deeper purpose and abundant life in Christ.

As we do our part in this God-pleasing, life-changing work, we're asking all of you to do your part. Here's what we're asking...

**Pray. Really Pray.** Ask the Lord to bless all those who are responding to our postcard, that they might find or rediscover God's purpose for them.

**Introduce yourself.** Go out of your way to warmly welcome new faces around you. And please wear your nametag to make it easier for them to connect names and faces.

**Pitch in.** Consider being one of our brownie bakers, visitor packet deliverers, or greeters. It's meaningful and impactful work.

**Spread the word.** Grab a handful of excess postcards and leave a little stack where others can find and read them. You never know who's waiting for an invitation to rediscover their purpose.

**Join the team.** If you'd like to explore being an active part of a really vital ministry team, just talk to any of us. Current Evangelism Team members are Jenny and Jeremy Kwapich, Renee Geiger, Joyce Dow, Carol DeBis-Harrell, Pastoral Intern Glenn Schrader, and Pastor Fred. You can reach Pastor Fred by email ([fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org)) or phone (847-323-3774). *Let's talk!*

## TRANSITION TEAM



Check out our timeline in the narthex. You can't miss it. Think back on your life at Spanish Trail/New Spirit and share your memories on paper. We have given suggestions on areas that might bring back a memory or two but don't let that limit you. It's our life here under God's direction, so it's all fair game!

Brigitte, Cathy, Barb, and Judy

## YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2022

Following the elections at the Annual Meeting, followed by a resignation and subsequent new appointment of a member-at-large, here is the list of Church Council members for 2022:



President: Jenny Kwapich

Vice President: Robin Hughes

Secretary: Shelley Colwell

Members-at-Large: Joyce Dow, Deloris Hanneman, Jeremy Kwapich, John Lukecart, Marty Mosthaff, Barbara Verthein (appointed, pending conclusion of her work on the Transition Team), and the Pastors.

## LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2. We will worship at 7:00pm on Ash Wednesday and then at 7:00pm on Wednesdays for the following five weeks. The plan is to use Holden Evening Prayer for midweek worship, with a meditation on a Psalm during each service.

If you would like to share a brief (5-minute) meditation on the Psalm of your choice, please let Pastor Carol know ([carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org) or 224-422-9552). It would be wonderful to hear a number of different voices!

Watch for information for Holy Week and Easter (April 17) as we get closer.

## CARING MINISTRY YOU DON'T SEE

Let's take a moment to thank God for all the mutual caring that takes place in our congregation that most of us don't see happening. We have many members who spend their time and their love making phone calls, visiting, sending cards and notes, and taking meals to others who are ill, homebound, or struggling for any reason.



If you're one of those people, thank you and God bless you! As the song says, "They'll know we are Christians by our love." Thank you for embodying that.

## STUCK? TRY SPIRITUAL GROWTH COACHING

It's hard not to feel like we're living in a bad dream these days. It's easy to feel stuck, like nothing is changing, or, at least, nothing is changing for the better. Whether it starts with spiritual stuck-ness or the spiritual stuck-ness follows from other aspects of life, we can find ourselves spinning our wheels, living without a strong sense of hope and forward momentum.



That's a good time to try Spiritual Growth Coaching. The whole point of this kind of coaching is to help you move off the dime and toward whatever growth you're looking and longing for in your life.

Someone being coached usually meets with their coach about once a month to talk through how things are going and make a plan for the month ahead, taking into account both potential pitfalls and hoped-for benefits. Currently about a dozen New Spirit folks are getting coached. We've also invited people in the community around us, via postcard, to give Spiritual Growth Coaching a try. Five New Spiriters are going to be trained in this kind of coaching via a Zoom workshop in February.

If you'd like to talk about getting coached or just have questions about it, please get in touch with Pastor Carol ([carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org) or 224-422-9552). Getting unstuck is a great feeling!

## February Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

2/2 Ellie Thompson

2/10 Ken & Sharon Dobbs  
(Anniversary)

2/17 Carol Breimeier



2/18 Brenda Feller

2/20 Sarah Drath

2/24 Sandra Colwell

2/25 Sandy Cooper  
Jeremy Kwapich

## FIND YOUR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE

It's not too late to join in with New Spirit in reading Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Life*. We've just begun the six-week series of Sunday messages, daily reading, and small group conversations. Pick up your free copy of *The Purpose Driven Life* from the table in the sanctuary entryway. Tucked into each book is a daily reading guide and a listing of in-person and online conversation groups.

The book challenges and guides the reader with questions about the meaning and purpose of human life when looked at as God's creation and in light of eternity.

Come for the Sunday message, do the reading for the week, and join in a conversation group either in person or online. Conversation groups that meet after worship each Sunday are a good opportunity to see and hear each other's point of view...while you're already at church, and while sipping a cozy coffee. Or join in an in-person or Zoom group during the week.

Are you in need of renewed focus, energy, or hope? Discovering God's purpose for your life can make all the difference.



## COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP TIME RESUMES

Because of the recent COVID surge, we have been unable to have coffee hour indoors. And it's been too cool and cloudy to move out onto the patio. But that's changing—predictably—as the days get longer and warmer.

So, barring unforeseen circumstances, coffee hour will resume on January 30 and be a regular feature of our Sunday mornings.

Thanks to Judy McFarland and Sarah Drath, we have a "hospitality book" for 2022 that assigns people to help out for a month during this year. If you don't already have a copy, contact the office and we will mail it to you. If you're unable to participate actively in prepping coffee or bringing and serving snacks, perhaps you can make a small contribution to defray the cost for others.



If you'd like to help out with coffee hour but are not listed in the hospitality book, please get in touch with Nancy DiFebbo in the office (520-269-2461 or [nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org)) or Pastor Carol ([carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org) or 224-422-9552).

## NEW SPIRIT DIRECTLY IMPACTS HOMELESS PEOPLE EVERY MONTH



People living on the street want to be acknowledged. We do that here at New Spirit. In addition to supplying much needed supplies, we offer support and love to otherwise overlooked, struggling

people. Our monthly events and administering directly to them where they are, makes a great impact on their lives. Thank you for your continued support!

If you have clothing, shoes, socks, or blankets/sleeping bags, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. We can always use monetary contributions to help pay for new underwear, hygiene products, flashlights, backpacks, batteries, and tarps.

*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)



## BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

This school year, we are feeding **271** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele, and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

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.**

Learn more about what we do and how you can help. **We need volunteers to help with fund raising, planning, purchasing, and delivery.** Contact Laurie Bernard at [lbernard2008@hotmail.com](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

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

## LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY IN ARIZONA NEWS

The Lutheran Advocacy Day at the Legislature is scheduled for February 1, 2022, in the Capitol Rose Garden from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Lutherans from throughout Arizona are planning to attend this opportunity to share bagels and drinks with our Arizona legislators. The purpose of this meeting is to make our legislators aware of our concerns about hunger awareness so that we may learn, witness, and voice our common needs in the public square through our faith and love.

Representatives from the Arizona Food Bank Network, Bread for the World, Wheat, Pinnacle Prevention, and more will be there with us to advocate for hunger needs. One of the speakers is our own Bishop Hutterer, who will also deliver the invocation in the State House at 1:15.

Another issue of interest is the chance to offer our opinions on legislative issues in 2022 as the legislature was scheduled to convene on January 10. If you are interested in learning more about how to be a part of this process, you may access this information by registering via the LAMAz.org website.

After a member of LAMA receives your information, that representative of LAMA will go to the capitol to register you in the Right to Speak system. In the past, you would have had to be physically present in Phoenix at the Capitol to participate. Now LAMA may register for you so that you can access information on bills at home or in your office.



Hope to see you at the Capitol on February 1.

Barb Verthein

## Shout-Outs

***SHOUT OUT - To Sunday School for a successful collection of books and other items for children in need.***

***SHOUT OUT - To the Greeters for creating a welcoming environment for new visitors.***





# 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](mailto:nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org) to be placed in the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

## **Sundays:**

10:00 am Worship

You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.

## ***How to contact us:***

New Spirit Lutheran Church  
8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

**Phone:** (520) 296-2461

**E-Mail:** [NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com](mailto:NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [newspiritlutherantucson.org](http://newspiritlutherantucson.org)