

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.*

February 2025

Beloved of New Spirit,

What a year it has already been, and we are only in the second month. I say that somewhat in jest, while also recognizing that is exactly how many of us are feeling. Lately, it seems that each day is a month long, or more. Just like you, there are days that I am overwhelmed. There have been days when I have gone to bed not knowing how I will endure. As part of the ELCA ordination for ministers there is a portion of the service where a charge is given to the person being ordained, part of that charge is "giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope".

I would love to be able to write in this letter that everything is going to be fine. Yet, as much as I long to be able to do so, I cannot. There are many people hurting. There are people deeply afraid. There are people that have had their lives turned upside down. There will be more people coming to the church for aide, because funding has been cut to programs that were assisting them. Other nonprofits are being overwhelmed. Things are hard out there, and I fear that things will just keep getting harder.

And yet, I can find some comfort or better yet some hope. I know that God is with us. God has not abandoned us. God has called us together for such a time as this. A little over a month ago, I shared with you all one of the struggles local elementary schools deal with. After some research, I gave you all a challenge of purchasing a pallet of bath tissue that would be split between some of the local elementary schools. We still have one more Sunday of collection and we have already collected enough to purchase at least 12 cases of toilet paper for 6 schools. That's a total of 72 cases of toilet paper or a little more than 1 and a half pallets. Put into dollars we will be saving those 6 schools a little bit more than \$600 each. That means we have saved them almost 20% of their annual budget that must cover paper towels, toilet paper, hand soap, hand sanitizer, floor wax, floor sealer, trash can liners, etc. While this may not seem glamorous or exciting it is making a huge impact on those local schools in a tangible way. I believe it also gives the administration at those schools hope. I cannot fully explain the look on the faces of the office staff, or principal when I have told them we are doing this. This gives me hope.

The pessimist in me thinks things will get much worse for many over the coming days, months, and possibly years. It would be easy to just throw our hands up and do nothing. I don't believe that is what we are called to do during times "such as these", instead let us focus on "the good that is ours to do." That is exactly what we will do. We will continue to serve those that need to be served. We will use our voices on behalf of those that are facing injustice. We will continue to learn and challenge ourselves so that we can do better. We will keep looking to the cross and listen to the calling of the Holy Spirit.

We may find ourselves being uncomfortable. We may get scared. We may be called names. Yet, we will continue to do the good that ours is to do. We will continue to spread the love of God shown through Jesus. And God will always be with us, every step of the way!

Pastor Hartman



Introducing your 2025 New Spirit Council.....

Pastor Hartman
President: Robin Hughes
Vice – President: Shelley Colwell
Treasurer: Lorrie Firth
Secretary: Becky Schmidt
Members At Large: Cathy Cermak
Nancy Cunningham
Joy Wolfe
Laurie Bernard
Barbara Wadler



Please join us in welcoming these individuals as well as praying for them throughout the year as they volunteer their time and gifts to New Spirit and all who enter here.

Lenten worship services schedule



Ash Wednesday: 7:00 am Ashes to go - Pastor Hartman will be in the parking lot off Camino Seco to impose ashes to those that come through. 6:00 pm Traditional Ash Wednesday worship service with the Imposition of Ashes and communion.

During the weeks of Lent the sanctuary will be open during normal business hours for personal prayer and reflection. No formal service will take place but resources for prayer and reflection will be available.

Holy Week Schedule –

Holy Week is April 13 – April 20.

April 13 – Palm/Passion Sunday

April 17 - Maundy Thursday, 6:00pm Dinner, Church worship. (Congregation members are being asked to bring side dishes and desserts.)

April 18 - Good Friday, our evening service at 6:00pm, Tenebrae worship service

April 20 - Easter Sunday, Worship service at 10:00 am.



Remember to invite someone to these services!



February 2025 Prayer

Lord, remind us that it is not always agitated uprisings and nonstop activity which leads to justice, but that change often comes through the quiet commitment of a small group of people. Help us raise our small body of people to set about quietly becoming the change we want to see in the world. Amen (from Common Prayer, A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals)

Endowment Board:

Brenda Feller
 Cathy Cermak
 Philip Pierce
 Paul Stuetze
 Jenny Kwapich
 Pastor Hartman

Nominating Committee for 2025:

Cathy Cermak
 Brigitte Stuetze
 Diane Schreiner

Audit Committee for 2024:

Gary Grochowski
 Doug Butler
 Edna Walton

**Fellowship Dinner**

The MONTHLY Wednesday night dinners resumed in January. Sharon Dobbs and Edna Walton are our dinner coordinators. It will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month thru May and resume in September. Please look for sign up sheets each month in the Narthex if you would like to participate.

**Dear Friends of the Saint Francis Shelter Community,**

We are thrilled to announce that St. Francis Shelter Community has been selected by Robert Craig Films to host a Red-Carpet Premiere event for the film "No Address".

This special event will take place at Cinemark Century Park Place 20 on Thursday, February 27th, 2025. Doors open at 6:30pm, and the film will start promptly at 7pm with no advertisements before the showing.



"No Address" is a powerful film that sheds light on homelessness and its impact, showing how it can affect anyone at any time. This is an incredible opportunity to bring awareness to the issue and to support those experiencing homelessness.

We invite you to join us on the red carpet for this unforgettable evening. Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR code or through the link:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/no-address-the-movie-a-red-carpet-premiere>

All proceeds will benefit the Saint Francis Shelter Community.

As part of Robert Craig Films' Big 5 Giveback initiative, they have committed to donating 50% of all profits from the movie, the documentary, the soundtrack, book sales, and the study guide. This initiative will not only support the Saint Francis Shelter Community; but, it also supports hundreds of other non-profits across the country dedicated to addressing the homeless crisis in America.

We are deeply honored to be part of this impactful movement, and we hope you will join us on February 27, 2025, at 7pm with doors opening at 6:30pm, for this special event. Together, we can make a difference.

I hope you will join us on February 27, 2025 for this special event.



LSS Refugee Resettlement Crisis

During a recent LSS Zoom meeting and discussion, I learned alarming things about what refugee families and Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest are facing in Arizona and the nation due to the sudden and extreme executive orders Trump has enacted. To start, let's differentiate between refugees, immigrants and immigrants who are in our country through Humanitarian Parole.



Refugees are here legally. They have spent years in refugee camps throughout the world waiting for processing through the United Nations. The UN assigns them to a country, which further screens them for entry. These are the people waiting to board planes this month when Trump canceled all flights and their acceptance into our country. Refugees fall under the Secretary of State, and the President sets the cap of how many are allowed each year. Immigrants are the folks at our borders seeking asylum, relief from violence and a better life. Those who are in our country through the Humanitarian Parole program are here legally but temporarily as they apply for asylum. They include Ukrainians, Afghans, Iraqis, etc. Once their temporary status expires, they may be deported. They fall under the authority of Homeland Security.

Funding for refugee resettlement comes from the Secretary of State and is funneled through agencies like Global Refugee Resettlement to organizations like LSS. There are two phases of programming. The first phase is 90 days long and includes finding housing, providing food, providing household items and clothing, getting refugees started with education and employment classes, etc. This is the critical phase that is funded through the Secretary of State. Phase two is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services and states. This phase provides ongoing and longer term support services, such as women's empowerment, youth mentorship, and after school programs.

This week Global Refugee Resettlement received a Stop Work Memo from the Secretary of State Department, halting funding for refugees in Phase 1, the first 90 days of their residence in the US. That means a halt of funding for all refugees who arrived in the US from November 2024 to Jan. 21, 2025! While Global has private funding for the refugees in Phoenix, there is no private funding for those in Tucson. Tucson currently has 483 refugees, 129 of which are in Phase 1 (48 families). They have basic urgent needs such as next month's rent!

Needless to say, LSS needs as much help as possible. They need financial help, in-kind help, volunteers to fill the gaps, and folks to help advocate for refugees. **The need is urgent!** Next week LSS will be sending more specifics on how we can help. Be on the look out. Perhaps New Spirit can organize a month-long drive and fundraiser.

This is a tragic time for refugees and immigrants, LSS, and the nation. I know we are being pulled in many directions for our finances and our time. **But we must respond!** Our hearts break as God's heart breaks.

Cathy Cermak

February Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

2/02 Sam Wymer	2/14 Iris Thatcher	2/25 Sandy Cooper Jeremy Kwapich
02/07 Carol Johnston	2/18 Brenda Feller	
2/10 Ellena Kremer Ken & Sharon Dobbs (Anniversary)	2/20 Sarah Drath	2/26 Kimberly Rupp
2/12 Charlene Thayse	2/24 Sandra Colwell	





REFUGEE CRISIS FUND DONATION NEEDS

LSS-SW has lost critical funding to help 388 refugees that recently arrived in Arizona. Your donation provides essential items to support these refugees.

CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Disinfectant Spray for Kitchen, Bathroom; Lysol Wipes
- Hand Soap, Dish Soap
- Broom, Dustpan
- Laundry Detergent

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

- Flour, Sugar, Vegetable Oil, Black Tea Bags
- Basmati Rice
- Pasta and Sauce
- Canned Soup, Vegetables or Beans; Crackers, Cereal

HYGIENE SUPPLIES

- Toothpaste, Toothbrush
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Body Wash, Bar Soap
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene – Pads preferred
- Toilet Paper

GIFT CARDS – Visa, Frys, Walmart preferred; \$25 increments

COATS, UNDERWEAR, SOCKS,

BRAS – All sizes

BABY ITEMS especially Diapers

Items can be dropped off at either of our office locations:

- Phoenix Office: 2502 E University Drive, Suite 125, 85034
- Tucson Office: 3364 E Grant Road, 85716

Please let us know if you are dropping off a donation by emailing:
donations@lss-sw.org

www.lss-sw.org/refugee-crisis-page



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?

NEW SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL!



WE ARE SERVING 360 STUDENTS EACH WEEKEND FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR AT STEELE, HENRY, FORD, ERICKSON, AND SOLENG TOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS!

Help us alleviate hunger in our part of the world. We have volunteer positions available for grant research, food procurement, packing, and delivery. Join us for packing at New Spirit every Tuesday at 8AM to see how we do it!

Contact Laurie Bernard at bernard2008@hotmail.com with questions.

For regular contributions, please make your tax-deductible check to Blessings in a Backpack. You can drop in the offering plate, drop off at the church office, or drop directly in to the mail to BIB Lockbox, PO Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40295. You can also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button.

Remember to put Steele Elementary on the memo line.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY

HOMELESS BLESSINGS "BECAUSE WE CARE"



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

Our next event is on March 8th from 1pm to 3pm. We will be serving an Italian meal

Our events are not just for the unhoused, but for anyone experiencing financial/food insecurity. In addition to the supplies such as tents, tarps, umbrellas, beanies and gloves for our homeless friends, we offer a hot meal, hygiene products, pet food, clothing, shoes, blankets, some packaged food, haircuts, and a place for some social activity for everyone. We now offer Narcan and HIV/Hepatitis C testing.

OUR ACTIVITIES ARE NOT LIMITED TO JUST 1 DAY PER MONTH

We pack 100 "homeless bags" per month, which include a flashlight, hygiene, 1st aid, food, and a clothing item. These bags are carried in the car to be given away to an unhoused friend.

On February 16th, New Spirit will host a Super Youth Group gathering and will pack an additional 100 homeless bags.

We are an active member of Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness, a coalition of Tucson area organizations, committed to the mission of ending homelessness in Tucson and Pima County.

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION LOOKING TO SUPPORT AN OUTREACH PROGRAM?

FEEL THE NEED TO SERVE OTHERS? JOIN THE TEAM!

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. You can also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button.

Contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

Want to help? Contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT - To Cathy & Ron Cermak for hosting Shane Claiborne.

SHOUT OUT - To all those who volunteered in support of the Jazz Nativity.

SHOUT OUT - To Joyce Dow for leading the Women's Ministry group.

SHOUT OUT - To John Lukehart for helping recently with a few small projects around the church.

Please submit words of thanks and praise to Nancy at nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org by the 15th of each month to be placed in the newsletter. Thank you!

Sundays:

10:00 am Worship

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

How to contact us:

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E-Mail: NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com

Website: newspiritlutherantucson.org