

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

January 2019

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

This time of year always comes with uncomfortable questions about how we might be living into this new year. It comes with personal promises that this year will be somehow better than last year. It comes with new commitments to read more, or exercise more, or eat better, or get more sleep. In fact, the lists of opportunities that people begin each year has thousands of facets, all to make this year somehow better than last year. And you? What is your plan?

I am excited about the fact that for years the children of New Spirit were, well, young. Their parents have been faithful to keep their children connected with New Spirit, and over the years those children have become middle schoolers, and high school students! I am excited because we have the potential for a Youth Group with ten, count them, ten youth! Woo-hoo!

That group of youth got together earlier in December to prepare chili for the Annual Meeting Chili and Cornbread Supper. After we did the work of building the chili, I introduced them to a new game or two. The energy and laughter was healing for my soul! These young people began seeing the possibility, a new possibility for them to connect with New Spirit in new ways.

I will be offering a class I have wanted to offer for quite a long time. *"If I should die before I wake: Can we talk about death"* will be offered on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm, and again at 6:20 after Wednesday suppers for four to six weeks. I'm still writing the course, but what I really want to offer is a means by which we can talk about our difficulties with the whole death and dying thing, but more. I want to provide participants with a vocabulary to talk about death.

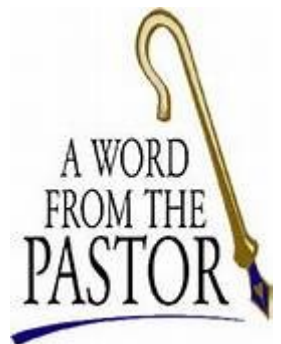
I think the fear people have about death is that we really don't equip people with the words, or vocabulary to speak of death, whether that be with a loved one whose days are numbered, or even more anxious, talking about our own death.

While I don't have all the answers, I served as the Hospice Chaplain in Payson for eight years. I was honored to attend 300 or more people through their dying process. I learned a lot from those people, and what they shared has truly been a peaceful deep-pool within me. I would like to invite you to come to that peaceful place, and consider how you might better understand dying and the reality of death from a faithful perspective.

And in January, finally, with our new Bishop in office I am witnessing a revival of Synod connections in terms of how we do our local ministry, and how the Grand Canyon Synod and the ELCA do their work of ministry. I believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is best served by our willingness to support that ministry. Over the years the Synod staff has been diminished. Where once four staff members was common, in the past 10 years the Bishop has operated with one, part-time associate. I believe Lutherans in Arizona and Southern Nevada can better bear witness to the Gospel will be through the active support of Synod staff. I ask you to pray in the coming month that God would lead the congregations of the Grand Canyon Synod to raise up leaders, and to support those positions through our benevolences.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Alan



RIVETING!!!!!! Some words to describe this word from the dictionary include: very interesting; involving; fascinating; intriguing; and engaging.

The 2019 NSLC Council:

Pastor Alan

President – Susan Armstrong

Vice President – David Grundstrom

President Emeritus – Brigitte Stuetze

Treasurer – Terry Wolfe

Secretary – Shelley Colwell

Members At Large (MAL):

Laurie Bernard

Renee Geiger

Jenny Kwapich

David Lynch

Marty Mosthaff

Amber Uidenich



I think the new council exemplifies the word RIVETING! We have an involved and engaged group of people this year. Between the addition of a new Member At Large, a new Vice President, as well as members agreeing to extend their roles on the council for an additional year and/or term, I believe the 2019 NSLC Council will do their best for the church this year. I want to thank each and every one of them for being leaders and contributing their own uniqueness to the council.

I also want to thank the following individuals for stepping up to the responsibilities in these committees:

Memorial Garden and Columbarium: Renee and Craig Geiger

Endowment Board: Edna Walton

Nominating Committee: Paul Stuetze and Susan Armstrong

Finance Committee: Amber Uidenich

Audit Committee: Jenny and Jeremy Kwapich, David Grundstrom

Heavenly Father --- You have brought us here in fellowship to serve the church. Let our fellowship be a reflection of the love we feel for each other and the love we feel for YOU. Amen!!!

Sincerely,

Susan G. Armstrong
Council President



Church Council Retreat is January 25-27 at the Retreat Center at St. David, AZ. The council members will be addressing issues of discipleship, creating ministry plans for New Spirit, and to review strategic goals that were set a number of years ago. This will be an important retreat as it will prepare us to address a number of issues that will be arising for New Spirit in the coming years. Please pray for the Council members as they consider God's call into the near future.

January 17, 1989 was 30 years ago. I was the Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Stockton, California. Faith shared a parking lot with Cleveland Elementary School. That day shortly after noon, my life, and the lives of 25 children and one teacher was turned upside down. A young man bought an AK-47 over the counter, along with 200 rounds of NATO 7.62 mm ammunition. The next day he opened fire on fifty 1st and 2nd graders who were at lunch recess, playing on an asphalt playground.

It was the third school yard shooting in America. Scotty Barton was 6 years old when a bullet tore out the back half of his thigh. Scotty and his family were members of Faith Lutheran Church. In the hours following the shooting, we used Faith's fellowship hall to connect frantic parents and classes from the school.

Two images plague my sleep often. The first is the sight of 19 children, 6 and 7 years old, being triaged by paramedics on the front lawn of the school. Gunshot victims bled profusely. Six bodies laid still, dead. The other image is the faces of parents as their child's name was read as being wounded, or killed. Faces erupted in terror and tears. How could this happen at a school? I so remember Scotty's grandma, Thelma, when she heard his name. How she shook in disbelief. How could this happen at a school?

I will be returning to Stockton for the 30th Anniversary of the Cleveland School Shooting this month. I will sit with Janet Gang, the 1st grade teacher who was shot, and Pat Busher, the principal of Cleveland with whom I spent many hours in the months following. It will be a somber gathering.



Unfortunately, the question of that day, "How could this happen at school?" continues to be asked nearly every week.

WELCA-DEBORAH'S GATHERING BIBLE STUDY group met on December 5th. We shared Christmas readings, family customs, and Gloria and Sandy led us as we sang members' favorite songs of the Christmas season.

Ana introduced us to a new song, Happy Birthday Jesus. We learned a song that Barbara Rebok wrote and she read a poem her Mother had written.

Joyce gave us the background for the hymn, "Twas in the Moon of Winter Time" written about 1647 by Jean de Brebeuf, a priest from France when thousands of the Huron Indians were baptized. Later in December of 1926, it was set to music of a French tune.

We thanked Joyce for giving us material for making the Christmas cards sent and thanks to Sandra for all the cards she sends out for our Outreach Program.

A thank you was received from the Navajo Mission and School for our gift of \$100 and the \$300 from the Endowment fund at the time of the celebration of 65 years of the Mission and the fact that for the FIRST time, it is all managed by the Navajo people.

All women are invited to join us for the January 9th meeting at 2 p.m. in room 105. Our Gather magazine has many excellent articles, not just the bible study. Copies from past months are on the Visitor's table in the Narthex.

Joyce gave us special book marks to mark an article in the Gather magazine to read and discuss. Sandra Colwell will do devotions and Barbara Rebok will lead the lesson. Sandy Cooper and Gloria Burke will lead the music. Gloria was asked to have the group learn to ring chimes with our February singing.



We will decide in January how the Project money left from 2018 will be spent.
Gloria Burke, Secretary

Thank you for your support! We held a **Chili and Cornbread Supper** after the Annual Meeting in December. The youth put the chili together, and it cooked for 24 hours before serving. Your generosity raised over \$800 for the Youth Trip in 2021 to the **ELCA National Youth Gathering in June 2021 in Minneapolis!!!** The Youth Trip Fund account is held in the Restricted Funds of New Spirit. The week-long trip will have our youth join 40,000 ELCA youth from across the country for amazing speakers, concerts, service projects, learning experiences, and more! The trip costs nearly \$1,000 per youth. We ask parents to pay their youth's registration fee \$390 as their investment in the experience. The remainder is used for airfare, hotel rooms for a week, and a food stipend. The youth group (ten youth at this time) will be holding fund-raisers for the coming three years to cover the costs of the trip. Thank you for investing in the faith-experiences for our youth!!!



Community Food Bank Vegetable Distribution

We will be distributing surplus fresh fruits and vegetables on the 1st Saturday of each month beginning January 5th. We need two shifts: 9:00-11:00 set up tables and distribute veggies to folks. 11:00 – 1:00 distribute veggies, and take down tables.

We need four persons per shift. If you'd like to help. Please sign-up on the magnet board in the Narthex. Thanks!



SALCA Camp is on the calendar for 2019. Remember, camp was cancelled last year because the teacher's strike threatened additional days of classes for our campers. Those additional days were not required, but we had to cancel camp. So, SALCA Camp is scheduled for May 27-31 at Triangle Y Ranch Camp in Oracle. Campers need to have completed 3rd grade by the start of camp. New Spirit supports campers with funds to offset registration fees.

Easter, 2019 will be about as late as Easter can be: **April 21st**. We are considering a change to our Holy Week services and times. We will be considering an **Easter Vigil** on Saturday evening. The Easter Vigil is an ancient service of the Church that recalls all of God's activities in the redeeming of the world. More to come in the months ahead.



Tax Season is right around the corner



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 will be open from 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM on Thursdays and Fridays and from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on Saturdays. Our first day will be February 1st.

Contact John Lukecart at 520-885-8182 or Terry Mysak at 520-784-1341 if you have questions.

Remember calling people rather than texting?

Some of us are not able to assist with church needs due to being home bound or physically limited. But we still have a giving heart. God calls us in many ways and as Paul writes, “pray without ceasing”. And often that is the only thing we can do!

So here is an opportunity for YOU!

We're looking for a few good people to help put back into action a phone prayer chain.

Brenda Feller's prayer requests per the internet work well but not all of us are tech savvy.

So let us know if you can help. Call the office or let me, Brigitte, know.



Congratulations to Laurie Bernard



Laurie was “**Belled by Ben's Bells**” on Dec. 18th for her work with **Blessings in a Backpack**. New Spirit feeds 279 elementary students each weekend during the school year, and Laurie has been instrumental in the development of the program here.

She will be featured on KGUN-9 news, the Morning Blend @ 11:00 am, January 25th and will appear in the Arizona Star on Tuesday, January 29th..

Crackers and calculators.



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*

January Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

1/6 Joe & Flo Vohnoutka
(Anniversary)

1/7 Maxine Nibbe
Jeremy & Jenny Kwapich
(Anniversary)

1/13 Kelly Greenler



1/15 Phyllis Wagner

1/17 Brigitte Stuetze

1/20 Karen Colwell

1/29 Marcia Kidder



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

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT- Sandra, Shelley and Karen Colwell and Sandy Cooper for donating new garland to the church.

SHOUT OUT - December hospitality team.

SHOUT OUT - December Wednesday cook team.

SHOUT OUT - Edna Walton for always being on top of changing seasonal flowers/arrangements in and around the church.

SHOUT OUT - Sandra, Shelley and Karen Colwell for continuing to provide Sunday School classes and projects.

SHOUT OUT - John Lukehart and Ken Dobbs for the luminaries on top of the church. Brave young men.

SHOUT OUT - Marty Mosthaff - Head packing guy for Blessings in a Backpack and head of set up/tear down for Homeless Blessings events.

SHOUT OUT - Ellen Lundgren - New head of packing gal for Blessings in a Backpack.

SHOUT OUT - Dennis Armstrong for donating hygiene and food items to Homeless Blessings every month.

SHOUT OUT - Cordelia Lundquist for her constant support of Blessings in a Backpack, the Homeless Blessings and the Food Bank.

SHOUT OUT - Robin Plouffe, Teacher at Steele Elementary - Coordinator for Food Team for Homeless Blessings.

SHOUT OUT - Nancy, our rock, who keeps things humming in the office and her helpers, Ana Mackay, Sharon Dobbs and Mary Lou Rex.

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

How to contact us:

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