

# *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 2020

Dear Partners on the Trail,

Welcome to a new decade! It is 2020, not the ABC news show, or pretty good vision reading an optical chart, no this is a new age for the world, and most certainly our country. While political campaigns have been a bit of a nuisance over the past 18 months, the next 11 months could very well be indigestible.

In the event your brain becomes weary, or your soul becomes barren by low-blows and blatant lies, I encourage you to step into the Proverbs. The Proverbs, a father's wise guidelines to his teen-aged son to enable the boy to better understand life in this world. Really! So when exaggerations are made, you can look at Proverbs 10:17-21, and consider the speaker. In fact, I encourage you to keep your Bible near your TV viewing post with a bookmark in the book of Proverbs. It is a "book of wisdom" by the way. What wisdom might the writer, popularly thought to be King Solomon, who lived 1,000 years before Jesus, write to us today? Wisdom lasts, while foolishness derails.

Governor Ducey recently announced that Arizona is ready to receive and resettle refugees into Arizona. These persons are not from the Central America or Mexico routes. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest have been active in past years resettling refugees. Every refugee family entering through LIRS or LSS-SW have passed the 22 interviews and background searches.

There is a ton of misinformation, and out and out lies, about the ministry of welcoming refugees. That is why we will be offering a study of the Refugee Crisis on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This five-week class gives the distinctive Lutheran perspective, including faith-based understandings of the need for seeking refuge. Renee Geiger will be leading this class.

As we step into the season of Epiphany, we are reminded of the strangers who crossed several borders in their quest to find the subject of the Bethlehem star. Soon thereafter, Mary and Joseph fled (sought refuge) from Herod's threat to kill the child. To protect their family, these three left the safety of their own home and crossed the border into the country of Egypt.

We are church, and we understand God moves in the lives of people who feel the danger to themselves and their children. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were a refugee family.

On Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the "Remembrance of Our Baptism" during the worship service. This happens on "the Baptism of Our Lord" Sunday after Epiphany. You will be invited to come to the Baptismal font to receive the marking of the Cross on your forehead with water, remembering God's promises to you in your Baptism. This is not a "re-baptism" nor is it "baptism." If you are interested in either of those, please talk with me.

This will be an interesting year. I am looking forward to walking these days with you.

Prayerfully,  
Pastor Alan



## The 2020 NSLC Council:

Pastor Alan Field

President – David Grundstrom

Vice President – Jenny Kwapich

President Emeritus – Susan Armstrong

Treasurer – Terry Wolfe

Secretary – Shelley Colwell

Members At Large (MAL):

Laurie Bernard

Renee Geiger

Brigitte Stuetze

Deloris Hanneman

Marty Mosthaff

Amber Uidenich



Updates to the following committees:

Memorial Garden and Columbarium (3 yr term): Jeremy Kwapich

Endowment Board (3 yr term): Brenda Feller

Audit Committee (1 yr term): Jenny Kwapich, David Grundstrom, Marlene Hansen

Green Team (1 yr term): Paul Stuetze, Naida Granmo, Jeremy Kwapich, Sarah Drath, Amber Uidenich



I am honored to be serving as your council president for 2020. I have always been impressed by the welcoming nature of our congregation and I know with all the talented members we have, 2020 will be a good year.

I encourage everyone to invite friends and neighbors to experience our approaches to fellowship, worship and community. It is something that offers variety and connectivity that is not found everywhere.

The multiple partnerships embodied in our congregational presence, ICS being the most visible, allows us to be able to carry on a long tradition of caring for others in many different ways. Making even a small difference every day is like the ripples in a pond when a rock is tossed in it. They go on well beyond eyesight, touching everything in their wake in unseen and unknown ways.

Dave Grundstrom

## What's with this "Green Team" thing?

The ELCA Disaster Response Team held a consultation in October. The sole purpose was to discuss the implications of climate change, and the rapidly increasing devastation natural disasters are worsening.

Due to that reality, the ELCA now encourages ways for congregations to lessen their carbon-footprint. The most polluting thing we do is the use of **single-use plastic knives, forks, and spoons; single-use foam cups; and single-use coated paper plates** (the nice ones that are sturdier). Each piece is made from petroleum, chemicals, and additives to give them rigidity and color.

The New Spirit Church Council is investigating a way we can stop buying single use paper and plastic. That would mean purchasing cups, saucers, and plates; using the stainless flatware we already have, and installing a dishwasher. Thank you, in advance, for your good stewardship of the earth that is declining every new year.



The Church Council will be going on retreat in St. David. Date to be determined. We will be continuing our discussions on worship at New Spirit, the Green Team areas, leadership training, and goal setting for the coming year.



### Women's Ministry Group December 2019



Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met on December 11, 2019, at 1:30 at the church. Our group celebrated advent by sharing stories of our favorite Christmas memories from the past. We each brought a treat to share and sang our favorite Christmas songs.

Regular Bible Study and meeting will resume January 8, 2020, at 1:30 pm at the church.

Linda Lamb - Secretary

Adult-Education opportunities will be coming after the Refugee Crisis Conversations. If you would like to lead a book study, or a video discussion series, or an interest class like cooking, parenting, budgeting, please contact a Church Council member.



Bishop Hutterer and Pastor Alan will be making a **Mission Visit to Senegal** just after Christmas. The Senegalese Lutheran Church is the Global Partner of the Grand Canyon Synod. The Bishop and Pastor Alan will be visiting congregation sites throughout Senegal for eight days.

**Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.** There will be a brief opening worship, written by Pastor Alan. Bishop Hutterer will bring a brief meditation. This will be an opportunity to meet the LSS-SW staff and volunteers. Ministry displays will help tell the LSS-SW story. Food will be provided.



**New Adult Education Opportunities....coming soon!** Pastor Alan has subscribed to an amazing compilation of short videos concerning matters of faith, theology and the practice of faith in our very diverse world. Featured are renowned theologians, pastors, authors, civil activists, artists, and more! "The Work of the People" is a rich resource. Pastor will be deciding how best to offer these for video-discussions. A variety of times may be needed to allow for those who work, those who don't do mornings, and those who just don't get out much! Are you ready to re-consider your faith and how you got here?



### **Confirmation Class Status Report**

Students are in the middle of our long section on "Who Jesus Is...." Each of the students are editing their Statements of Faith and discussing questions about life, doubt, mystery, God, and church.



The Service of Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) is scheduled for Mother's Day, May 10<sup>th</sup>.



"Thank you for your generous gifts and cards at Christmas!" You have outdone yourselves with your generosity and love toward me and the Bishop (Deborah)!" Pastor Alan

Last month's newsletter included information about the "Five Wishes" pamphlet available from Aging With Dignity. This simple document is the most widely used advance directive/living will in the United States. 25 copies of this document have been ordered and will be available through the office in a few weeks for members of the congregation.



### 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact John Lukehart at 520-885-8182 or Terry Mysak at 520-784-1341 if you have questions.

**Thanks to John Lukehart, Ken Dobbs, and Don Crow** for putting up the luminarias over the Office Building and Narthex. John had to do "lots of surgery" on the aging luminaria bags, so new ones have been purchased.

**Thanks to Terry Wolfe** for his countless hours clearing trees and cutting branches in our "front yard." All of his hard work can be seen right outside.

**Thanks, too, from the Youth Group** for your support of their Chili & Cornbread Supper after the annual meeting. Thanks to you, \$627, or two airline tickets, were raised by your generosity. The ELCA National Youth Gathering is in June 2021 in Minneapolis. This was a Thrivent Action Team event sponsored by Pastor Alan.

**YOU GUYS  
ROCK!**



**Feed My Starving Children** Packing Event will be held at **Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oro Valley on Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. (note change of time.)**

We are allotted **60, that is SIXTY people**, to pack. Children as young as 5 years may pack with a parent present.

**Feed My Starving Children** uses scientifically engineered meal packs for children in 108 countries around the world. The results of saving a child from malnutrition are amazing.

The New Spirit Endowment Fund supports the ministry of Feed My Starving Children.

### January Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

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



**WHO  
WILL FEED  
THE KIDS  
THIS WEEKEND?**  
*I will.*



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.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PURCHASED JIM CLICK FORD RAFFLE TICKETS. WE RAISED \$3,550!

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***

## OUR HOMELESS MINISTRY IS SPREADING

DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> BROUGHT US SAHUARO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO PACKED AND DONATED SUPPLIES, FILLED BAGS AND VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AT OUR HOMELESS BLESSINGS EVENT. **THANK YOU!**



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 are able to provide emergency blankets, tarps, gloves, and hats.

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 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 TOWARD 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 Homeless Blessings Team

**SHOUT OUT** - To Blessings in a Backpack Team

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

**SHOUT OUT-** To Praise Team.

**SHOUT OUT-** To Don Austin Tech support

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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