

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.*

July 2021

AN ATTITUDE OF LOVE

There's a huge shift that happens if you live long enough, one that some of you reading this are familiar with. As we get older, we move from the I'm-the-center-of-attention phase, through the my-kids-are-the-center-of-attention phase, into the my-kids' kids-are-the-center-of-attention phase. Live a little longer and you'll find yourself in the era when it's the children of your children's children who are the shiny new focus of all eyes.

It's wonderful!

I just came from my daughter-in-law's baby shower. This will be the first grandchild on my side of the family, and she will (believe me!) have plenty of adorable little clothes and lots of doting eyes following her every movement and milestone.

My job is to provide one of those sets of adoring eyes while refraining from adding too much to the abundance of adorable little clothes.

Every generation steps to the side and asks the guy with the spotlight to shift it to the next generation. And we, now no longer center-stage, smile and support and enjoy seeing someone else grow into the person God created them to be.

It's a great lesson in love. And it strikes me that it's what Jesus calls us to do always with everyone: Love your neighbor as yourself. Let their life and their gifts and their opinions—all of who they are—be as important to you as your own. And not just if they share some DNA with you, but everyone, no matter how different from us or similar to us.

Of course, getting older and moving to a different role is a real adjustment. It can be kind of hard, sometimes, to do it for our own children. And it's even harder to set ourselves aside for the sake of people we don't yet know or people whose ideas or tastes are different from ours.

But this is what we're called to. And if it takes conscious effort (it does!), it's worth it. If, as individuals and as a church, we adopt a consistent attitude of willingness to set ourselves aside and focus on the flourishing of others, everyone who comes in contact with us will sense that. They'll feel loved in the way God loves: not with conditions but with delight in the uniqueness of each person and a deep desire to see each person become everything they were created to be.

May God continue to form us into a church that glows with that kind of love.

In Christ,

Pastor Carol



SUMMER MESSAGE SERIES

Through the summer we will be focusing our Sunday messages on *Twelve Teachings of Jesus*. Jesus sometimes taught with parables (stories with a point) and sometimes very directly. He also said some things that can make us do a double take because they aren't the kind of thing we expect to come out of the mouth of the Jesus we think we know.



The series is already underway, but there's plenty more to come. Remember: messages are available on YouTube for those who can't come to church or who are traveling. Just type "New Spirit Lutheran Tucson" in the YouTube search bar. If you find a particular message particularly meaningful, you can also forward the link to a friend.

TONGUE-TIED NO MORE!

When you want to tell someone about your faith and what Jesus means for your life, does it seem like you forgot how to talk? Does your mind go blank, and your vocabulary disappear?

If so, you're not alone. A lot of us grew up not hearing people share their faith easily and openly. So, when we try to speak that language, it isn't right there for us. But that doesn't mean we can't learn!

On Sunday, July 11, Pastor Carol will lead a workshop called "One-Minute Faith Stories." We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall at about 11:30, after worship and fellowship time, and wrap up around 12:30. Lunch will be provided.

This workshop will help you prepare a response for any time someone asks you about your faith in Jesus. We'll talk about what makes for a good, but brief, faith story. Then you'll spend some time starting to put together a one-minute faith story that's true to who you are and your unique experience. You'll come away with something you can share in a minute—not too much, not too little—to start a conversation or pique someone's interest.

This workshop will be fun and low-pressure. And only God knows the difference it will make for you and for someone you get a chance to share with.



Sign up by emailing Pastor Carol at carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org or by calling or emailing Nancy in the church office (nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org; 520-296-2461).

HELP WANTED: Friendly, engaged people needed for frontline ministry

Greeters are much more than human bulletin dispensers. In fact, the ministry of greeting is an essential component of the Sunday morning worship experience that we seek to offer all people who come to New Spirit. In a spirit of generosity and abundance that was modeled by our Lord himself, we seek to create an atmosphere of intentional hospitality in which our guests feel noticed, welcomed, and loved.

Greeters are on the front line, so to speak; they are generally the first people our guests will see and talk to. When unchurched people do us the honor of visiting our church, we need to ensure that they will feel welcome and will be recognized and greeted warmly by our members.



That's why we're being intentional about this ministry and holding a brief (30-40 minute) training event after worship on Sunday, August 8. Grab a cup of coffee and join Pastor Fred and some members of New Spirit's Evangelism Team for a fun time of equipping to do ministry. Questions? Call Pastor Fred at 847-323-3774 or email fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org.

HELP WANTED (Take Two): Friendly, engaged people needed for *outside-the-box* ministry

As part of our Growing Season Initiative, we are preparing ourselves for the first-time visitors that the Lord will be sending our way in the next year. In addition to our frontline greeters, we are also holding intentional training for a team who will do visitor follow-up with our first-time guests.



We are revamping and upgrading our visitor follow-up process with high-quality visitor packets personally delivered to their door. This is an impactful and important best practice for growing churches, and one that we want to excel at going forward.

If you feel the Lord nudging you to check this out, Pastor Fred and some members of our Evangelism Team will help train and equip you. This brief training (30-40 minutes) will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, August 15. Curious? Have questions? Call Pastor Fred at 847-323-3774 or email fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org.

COMMUNITY FORUM (We're in this together!)

Stay after worship on Sunday, July 18, for a Community Forum in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a relaxed open forum about how things are going at New Spirit. There's no set agenda, and no votes will be taken. It's simply a chance to hear from each other. So bring your thoughts and questions and be ready to participate. We're in this together!



GET UNSTUCK!

Most of us feel stuck in some part of our lives at some point in our lives. And one place where that can easily happen is in our spiritual lives. We can find ourselves in the spiritual doldrums or simply notice that it's been a while since we felt the joy of growing closer to God.



How to shake free from stuckness and begin to see growth and forward momentum? You have one good tool at your disposal: Spiritual Growth Coaching.

Spiritual Growth Coaching takes the coaching model and applies it to your life of faith. Your coach meets you where you are and helps you think through where you want to be and how best to start to move in that direction.

A coach will ordinarily meet with you about once a month to help you plan and to help you hold yourself accountable to your plan. Of course, if something isn't working, then you'll talk it through together and you can make adjustments or just start fresh. The point is to grow deeper in faith and closer to Christ, so that your life is more and more fulfilling and joyful.

Interested in learning more? Pastor Carol and Pastor Fred are our two current coaches, (although we hope to train a few more in the coming months). Get in touch with either of us to set a time to have an initial conversation. Pastor Carol: carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org; Pastor Fred: fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS TEAM SEEKS ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS

As we come back to in-person worship and begin to welcome new people to our building and our worship services, we want their first experience of New Spirit to be good in every way. The First Impressions Team aims to look at our church through the eyes of someone coming for the first time so that they can identify areas where we could spruce things up a bit or make things more accessible.



We have a three-person team, but more sets of eyes would be great! This is a short-term but important commitment. Please contact Jenny Kwapich if you can help or if you have questions. Jenny can be reached at 520-465-6410 or jennykwapich@gmail.com

CAN YOU HELP ON SUNDAYS?

Are you able to take a turn as a greeter or usher, running the computer, helping with communion set-up or distribution, reading lessons, leading prayers, and/or hosting fellowship time after worship? We need you!

Email your name and which of these service opportunities you'd like to volunteer for to Nancy in the office: nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org. Or you can phone her at 520-296-2461. We'll assemble a pool of names and make up a schedule. Ideally, no one will have to take more weeks than they want to.

If you have questions about what is involved with any of these roles, please get in touch with Pastor Carol: carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org or 520-296-2461.



Thanks to everyone who has taken on one or more of these responsibilities in the past! Let's lighten everyone's load by sharing these tasks!

GRAND CANYON SYNOD ASSEMBLY NEWS

The Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met virtually in June. We heard from the Rev. Albert Starr, representing denominational headquarters; listened to various reports; voted on a mission spending plan (budget); elected synod council members and filled other positions; and joined in a virtual worship service.



Voting members from New Spirit were: Dave Grundstrom, Robin Hughes, and the pastors.

WEEKEND CONTACT INFO

From Thursday mid-afternoon through Sunday, the office at New Spirit is not staffed. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please be sure to call Pastor Carol on her cell phone: 224-422-9552. If you have a prayer request, you can call Pastor Carol or email her at carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org and she'll get the word to the people in charge of the phone prayer chain and email prayer requests.



MUSICIAN SEARCH

**MUSICIANS
WANTED**

We are advertising far and wide for a worship leader and a pianist or organist to provide live accompaniment for worship. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask that person to get in touch with Pastor Carol. They can simply call the New Spirit office at 520-296-2461.



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

IT IS HOT OUT THERE! Please help with donations of Gatorade or Powerade, which you can get at Fry's for \$.49 if you watch the sales. Our monthly events will still be scaled back until the fall with no clothing distribution, but the cook team is back in business with a limited menu. We are thankful that we have been able to share our blessings with our clients over the last year—sometimes just out of our cars!

If you have spring/summer clothing, shoes, socks, blankets/sleeping bags, AA & AAA batteries, hygiene products, or packaged food, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. We can always use monetary contributions to help pay for new underwear, backpacks, 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

July Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

07/01 Dennis Armstrong Dominic West	07/09 Bruce Drath Ron & Shereen O'Connor (Anniversary)	07/22 Chrystal Wood
07/02 Delores Hanneman	07/12 Ron & Cathy Cermak (Anniversary)	07/27 Esther Hopkins
07/03 Zachary Buglewicz		07/29 Linda Kurowski
07/05 Eugene Linderkamp Cori Garibay	07/16 Marilyn Stoeckig	07/31 Nancy Daliege
07/07 Michael Ansbro	07/20 Judy McFarland (Anniversary)	





SCHOOL IS OUT! ENJOY THE SUMMER! WE WILL BE RETURNING FOR FALL CLASSES!

We are hoping to return to volunteer packing when school begins again. We will keep you posted. We are selling Jim Click Ford raffle tickets again this year. Get a chance to win a 2021 Ford Bronco Sport, round trip, first class airline tickets to anywhere in the world, or \$5000 cash! \$25 for one or \$100 for five. All proceeds stay to help the 279 children we will be feeding each weekend at the schools we represent - Erickson, Steele, Ford and Henry.

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!

Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

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

Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT - Marty Mosthaff for making sure our Blessings in a Backpack fruit trees survive with daily water checks!

SHOUT OUT - Joy Wolfe for her generous donation of Terry's clothes to Homeless Blessings.

SHOUT OUT - Ellie Thompson, Dennis Armstrong, and Don Crow for their continued support of batteries, clothing, food, and funds to Homeless Blessings.

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 to be placed in the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

<p>Sundays:</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.</p>	<p><i>How to contact us:</i></p> <p>New Spirit Lutheran Church 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85710</p> <p>Phone: (520) 296-2461</p> <p>E-Mail: NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com</p> <p>Website: newspiritlutherantucson.org</p>
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