

That's The Spirit!

New Spirit Lutheran Church

Rev. Alan Field

*Our faith is in Jesus.
Our hope is in grace.
Our strength is in love.*

June 2019

Dear Partners on the Trail,

By the time you read this the wedding and the reception will be completed. Who could have known a year ago, before the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly that Rev. Deborah Hutterer and I would be married? Our thanks are due to all of you for your prayers, your kindness, your generosity, and your willingness to join us in this celebration of our “third chapter” life!

Summer is upon us. Last year I shared the following words with you. Maybe I was prophetic. Maybe I was wishful. Maybe these words needed to be spoken to re-focus all of us for the summer months. I invite you to read through my words from last June, and measure where you are today. Have you experienced growth, or clarity in your understanding of worship and your plans for this year's summer season?

This is a Summer re-run, from June, 2018 newsletter:

Worship is central to our life of faith. The word “worship” comes from the Old English word “*worth-ship*” which indicates the focus of the worshipful action. That focus would be the presence of God. The action of worship includes prayer, giving praise and thanksgiving for all God has given, reading of Scripture, an interpretation of the Scriptural reading for life (the sermon), songs of praise, devotion, and faithfulness.

Our Lutheran heritage of worship has taken many forms over the five centuries of the Reformation. Gregorian chant based worship has not been the center or tradition for 500 years. In fact, the elevation of the Word of God served for decades as the centerpiece of worship. Over the years, new songs and hymns have been brought to the service of worship in hope of creating another step into the presence of God. The music does not bring God's presence to us. The music seeks to help us transcend into the place of the Spirit. While you may have a favorite hymn, or preferable style of worship, neither of those is the focus.

We worship God in this place, dwelling among all who are gathered to speak to us the oft repeated promises of love given freely without exception, mercy whose love forgives us, and the peace of Christ that weaves the Body of Christ with strands of faith, hope and joy.

Worship is central to our life of faith. And in all candor, worship is not a “consumer activity.” Its core is found in the person of Jesus, in the creative hand of the Almighty, and in the fellowship of the Spirit that connects us. The focus on that presence is not determined by whether we “like” this or that, or by our physical comfort in padded pews and a great air-conditioning system. No, the focus of worship is on the very presence of God among us.

Our Lutheran heritage draws the people of God to the sacrament of the altar, the Eucharist, the Holy Communion. We believe and teach that in that simple meal, we experience the means of grace where Jesus' sacrifice and ultimate victory is renewed in us. In that meal, kneeling beside other imperfect sinners, God speaks the life-giving word of forgiveness and the on-going call to new life with a New Spirit.

I need to speak this word. During the summer months, New Spirit holds one service on Sunday mornings. The focus of our worship is God's presence, not whether the accompanying music is played on keyboards or fret-boards. Our worship is guided in the words of the liturgy which always calls us to be honest in our confession and clear in God's forgiveness of those sins. Our worship invites us to step up out of ourselves to commune in the presence of the eternal and transcendent One. There is no one-way to worship, but there is one focus: the presence of the Holy and Almighty God, made known to us in Jesus Christ and experienced among us through the Spirit of Holiness.

It is summer here in the Sonoran Desert. Yes, it gets hot here, yet in the same heat we go to work, we shop for groceries, we do our daily routines. Summer should not be a season when you excuse yourself from worship due to the heat, the style or the hour.

And, if you plan on staying away those “other” Sundays, I remind you our focus does not change. In fact, the words of the liturgy are tailored to each Sunday's readings. The Communion preface is written woven with that Sunday's readings. Music can be a celebration if the focus remains where the focus belongs...not on the music or music makers...but on the presence of God among us to bless, renew and refresh us...despite the dry-heat in which we have chosen to live.

I love worship in this place. I love when people are surprised by the way God sneaks up on them with a divine “gotcha.” God is delighted when we delight in God's will and ways. That's it.

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Alan

**We
were made
for
WORSHIP!**

Be mindful of guests on Sunday mornings! During the Summer months we often see a number of guests attending worship. Summer is “church shopping season.” Since we only get one opportunity to make a “first impression” we ask that you put on your best “welcoming face” and engage guests with a radical hospitality. That includes inviting people to sit with you for worship. It includes inviting them to coffee (yes, it is before worship so invite them to join you next Sunday.) Encourage guests to fill out the green sheet in the Sunday bulletin and put it in the offering plate. Introduce yourself by name, and wearing a nametag is a huge help! Get their names, and do all you can to “remember them.”

Before this Sunday practice your answer to these questions: “Why are you a member of this church, and how are you involved here?” “What would this church be able to offer our children? Our teenagers? Us, as we have recently retired?” “What is the best thing New Spirit does?”



No, Pastor Alan is not retiring! Now that Pastor Alan Field and Bishop Deborah Hutterer are married, they are both committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of their calling. Pastor Alan continues to be the Pastor for New Spirit. He will be “our” Pastor for the foreseeable future. Bishop Hutterer has 5 ½ years left in her term as Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod. They are figuring how to best nurture their marriage with the distance between their homes. Prayers for their creative connections would be greatly appreciated.

**I'M NOT
RETIRING.**

P.S. The Bishop is not changing her name, nor is Pastor Alan. 😊

Thanks to our “Cook Teams” who prepared Wednesday evening Suppers for the past school year!!! Wednesday evening suppers have become a vital ministry setting, wherein New Spirit members are afforded time to eat together. As an outreach to our neighborhood we will be weighing a number of options for us to best address the purpose and mission of these suppers.

Watch for future announcements in newsletters and Sunday bulletins concerning Cook Teams for the coming school year.



Meals from the Heart grew among Council members concerned for some of our home-bound members. Meals from the Heart prepares a solid, nourishing meal which is delivered to the home of our at-risk members. Meals from the Heart grew from the love of Council members or friends at New Spirit. If you would be willing to provide a weekly meal to our at-risk members, please contact Susan Armstrong, Council President.

Wednesday Evening Suppers created a lot of discussion. Celebrations were shared about how Wednesday suppers have become a ministry to many who attend. Concerns were shared, as well, about weary cooks, the loss of the “sense of community” during those suppers, and the fewer New Spirit members attending, while attendance is increasing. The Council voted for a short hiatus for the Wednesday suppers, until which time interest in them will be weighed and considered.



In Memory.....

Wes Mengert died in Virginia in late April. Wes and Jean had moved in with their daughter, Deborah, who cared for them so well for the past three years. Wes played a huge role here at Spanish Trail / New Spirit for decades. He was the “go to fix-it guy” for years. He knew every square foot of each building, every filter size and when to change them, every faucet and breaker-switch. When he moved to Virginia, Wes took an entire library of our building systems, electrical systems, and drip-systems. That library lived in his head.

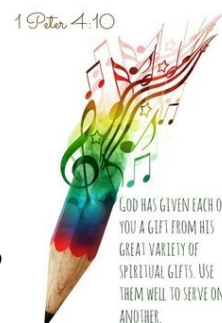


The Memorial Service for Wes Mengert will be held on **Thursday, June 20th, at 11:30 a.m. at New Spirit.** Wes will be inurned in the Columbarium following that service. **Memorial Gifts in Wes’ name** may be made to **New Spirit Lutheran Church – Wes Mengert Memorial.**

Dorothy Hybarger died May 13th following a massive stroke. Dorothy was Shereen O’Connor’s sister. She was a long-time member of Spanish Trail/ New Spirit. She and Chuck began their life here in the mid-1970’s. Chuck died in 2005. At the request of the family there will be no memorial service for Dorothy. Memorial Gifts in Dorothy’s name may be made to **New Spirit Lutheran Church – Dorothy Hybarger Memorial.**

God’s peace upon them as they enter the promise of Life Eternal. Grace is amazing!!!

The New Spirit Church Council met on May 14th for a very lengthy meeting. We discussed a number of issues facing New Spirit and the coming year of ministry. We continue to work with the results of your **Spiritual Gifts Inventories.** Our desire is to connect people with areas they can easily serve Christ through the ministry of New Spirit. **Spiritual Gifts** are hard-wired in who we are. These gifts enable us to accomplish projects, tasks and works to improve our lives and the lives of others. Church Council members will be contacting you to celebrate your Spiritual Gifts and to offer opportunities to help present Christ through New Spirit’s ministry.



Gardeners are needed! Over the years we have had small teams of New Spirit members who served by keeping the Memorial Garden weed-free, pruned, and watered (the drip system works well). As happens in life, most of our gardeners reached the age where they could no longer care for the garden.



The “job” takes a couple hours each month. If you would be willing to take a month twice or three times a year, please let Pastor Alan, Nancy in the office, or Ken Dobbs know. **Our deepest thanks to Ron O’Connor who has single handedly cared for both the garden and Columbarium for the past two or three years.** Ron has “crested his 80’s” and he could use some relief. Thank you, in advance, to those who step up.

Endowment Board News Every quarter the New Spirit Endowment Board meets to distribute around \$13,000 to agencies, churches, and groups who are in the “Social Ministry” business. Grant requests are submitted, and the board reviews the grant-requests and votes on how to “share the wealth.” Reminder: The New Spirit Endowment came into existence when the Calvary Lutheran Church property was sold in 2005 when Spanish Trail & Calvary Lutheran Churches consolidated creating New Spirit Lutheran Church. The legal description of the Endowment is that proceeds from the investment will be “limited in use for Social Ministry programs, funding or needs.”



For the 1st Quarter of 2019 the following agencies received funds: **New Spirit – Blessings in a Backpack, New Spirit- Homeless Blessings, SALCA (Southern Arizona Lutheran Camping Association), Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, Open Space Church (an ELCA mission site), and Feed My Starving Children.** A total of \$12,000 was distributed among those six agencies/ programs.

Congratulations to Amber Crace upon her graduation from Palo Verde High School Class of 2019. Amber is the daughter of Dean and Carri Crace. She plans on enrolling in College in the Fall either here in Tucson or in Texas.



K-Hall issues discussed at Council meetings included a request to paint classrooms and rearrange “stuff” to better use the space productively. We discussed creating a “Youth Space” and other needs. A “plan” is being created to communicate to the congregation.

June Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

06/02 Austin Crace	06/19 William Lynch & Carol	06/22 Eugene & Marilyn
06/04 Alan Field	Westover (Anniversary)	Linderkamp (Anniversary)
Ted Matthews	06/22 Ron Cermak	06/24 Joy Wolfe
Jessica West	06/22 Marilyn Linderkamp	06/26 Jeanette Sather
06/05 Paul Blomquist		06/27 Archie & Gloria Burke
06/16 Betty Cooley		(Anniversary)
06/17 Robin Hughes		06/30 Barbara Kotlaba



Deborah's Gathering Minutes for May 2019

Members of Deborah's Gathering WELCA Bible Study Group met at Garrett's Steak House on May 8th at 11:30 for lunch. After having a wonderful lunch and great fellowship, the members proceeded to the church for the meeting.

Sandy Cooper led devotions: Caring Enough - to listen, to offer aid when needed, to find common ground. Give us daily awareness to open our hearts to the sunshine around us.

April 2019 minutes were read and approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Sunshine Report: Easter, birthday and thinking-of-you cards were sent. Sandra Colwell will print an updated list of persons receiving cards. All members were encouraged to occasionally send an uplifting picture or phrase by text or e-mail to brighten someone's day.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sandra Colwell has done the inquiry and a section of the magnet board will be used for highlighting our youth.

Due to lack of interest the Tucson Church Women United will not be having a last gathering before disbanding. Our group will continue to collect for least coin projects, which could possibly go to campus ministry or Lutheran Social Services.

Library cleaning and organizing was done on May 18th from 9:00 to 11:00 am.

Susan Armstrong reported that before we can accomplish the painting project for the Sunday School rooms in K-Hall; the rooms would need to be cleaned up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Deborah's Gathering will change their name to "Women's Ministry Group" beginning September 2019. Officers are: President — Joyce Dow; Secretary — Linda Lamb; Treasurer — Barbara Rebok; Sunshine — Sandra Colwell; Music Leaders — Gloria Burke and Sandy Cooper.

A suggestion was made that we occasionally bring in speakers for our group, i.e. the new campus minister; a representative from Lutheran Social Services, so that we may learn more about their ministries.

Desert Lutheran Church in Green Valley is hosting a two-day bible study on Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th, 2019. There is no charge for this event, registration is due by Friday, May 31st.

Our group has been selected to present devotions at the Santa Cruz Conference in 2020 to be held in Sierra Vista on the first Saturday in March. Theme is from 1 Corinthians 13:13 — "Three things that will last forever: faith, hope, love, and the greatest of these is LOVE". The mixer led by Joyce Dow will be 20/20 vision which relates to speaker Father Greg Adolf's theme of Perfect Vision.

Plans are to continue cleaning up the Library in June.

Linda Lamb – Secretary





OUR NEARBY WALMART NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET ROCKS!!!

They just awarded \$1,000 to our BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK PROGRAM to help feed 10 children next year!!!

Did you know:

1 in 5 children in the US experiences poverty and food instability; children in Arizona fare even worse, with a quarter living in poverty.

According to the Casey Foundation, while child poverty in the nation has fallen to 19%, it remains at 24% in Arizona.

Child hunger can cause long-term health problems, reduced IQ, poor concentration and behavioral problems in school.

The number of children New Spirit supports through BIB has grown from 40 to 288 in the past seven years – and that's just barely the tip of the iceberg in terms of addressing the need.

It costs \$26,000 - \$28,000 to provide food for the current 288 children for the 38 weekends of the school year.

While this school year is ending, your generous donations are still needed. The next school year will be here in a flash, and we need to raise our budget. **HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Make a tax-deductible donation – Make your check out to Blessings in a Backpack, drop it in the offering plate or take it to the church office, or mail it directly to **BIB Lockbox, PO Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40295. Remember to put Steele Elementary on the memo line!**

Buy Jim Click raffle tickets – coming soon (\$25 each or \$100 for 5); OR **BETTER YET**, help sell tickets!!! 100% of the proceeds go directly to our BIB program!

Designate our program through your Fry's Community Rewards Program. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to BIB. Sign up online or at a Fry's Store. Account # XL431.

If you're a Thrivent Financial Member, sponsor an Action Team for BIB; we will receive \$250

Volunteer to help with purchasing, packing and delivery; Contact Laurie Bernard at

lbernard2008@hotmail.com

Help with fundraising efforts – we could really use some fresh ideas!!!

“Like” our page on Facebook: **Blessings at New Spirit Lutheran Church**

Thank you for your faithful support of our program. We are making a difference for 288 children! We could not do this without you!



HOMELESS BLESSINGS SUMMER HOURS MAY-SEPT 9 AM TO 11 AM

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 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, clothing, 1-day bus passes, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, and clothing.

**PLEASE DONATE FOR THE SUMMER:
MEN'S JEANS AND SHORTS – ESPECIALLY 32-34 SIZES
BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS
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 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

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710



Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT - To the May hospitality team.

SHOUT OUT - To the May workday help.

SHOUT OUT - To the all who made Pastor Alan and Bishop Deborah's reception such a success.

SHOUT OUT - To Paul Stuetze for his photography of the happy couple and celebratory participants.

SHOUT OUT - To the May Wednesday cook team.

SHOUT OUT - To Terry Wolfe for tree trimming.

SHOUT OUT - To Jamie's Gang for great entertainment for the wedding reception.

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
Classes

How to contact us:

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